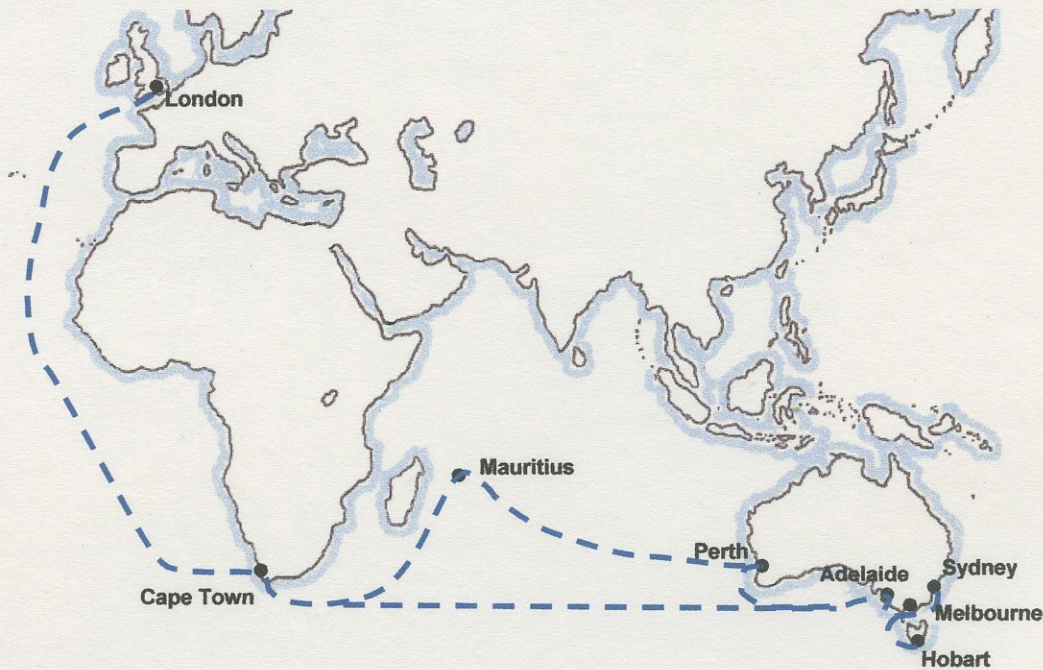


### 1.3 Early Ships Under Sail - Via Cape of Good Hope

#### Australian colonial mail via Cape of Good Hope

The mails from England to the Australian Colonies were sent via the Cape of Good Hope. However, the prevailing winds and currents made it very difficult for sailing ships to return to England via this route. Hence, there were very few sailings for the return voyage. During this period, there was merchant trading with Cape of Good Hope and New South Wales; and Mauritius with the eastern colonies.



A map showing the indicative sailing route to England via Cape of Good Hope

#### An early entire four years after the settlement of Western Australia



#### Single Rate:

"1/3"(d) manuscript in black comprising 1/- for the inwards ship letter fee and 3d internal postage to be paid by the recipient.

#### Postal markings:

"INDIA LETTER / MARGATE" in black applied in England.

Perth, Western Australia 22.9.1833 to Norfolk, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Perth 29.9.1833 per "Isabella" to Margate; overland to London, arriving 14.2.1834. (138 days).

One of the earliest covers from Western Australia recorded

Ex Chartwell



### 1.3 Early Ships Under Sail

### Via Cape of Good Hope

#### Single Rate:

“4”(d) manuscript in black representing prepayment for a ½ oz ship letter to Cape of Good Hope.



Sydney, New South Wales 4.12.1834 to Cape Town, **Cape of Good Hope**

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 14.12.1834 per “Adams”, via Launceston, to Cape Town, arriving 25.2.1835. (72 days).

The second earliest cover from New South Wales to the Cape of Good Hope recorded



Perth, Western Australia 25.12.1841 to London, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Perth 8.1.1842 per “Elizabeth” to London, arriving 6.6.1842. (163 days).

#### Single Rate:

Prepayment of 4d for a ½ oz ship to London.

“4”(d) manuscript in red representing the prepayment

“8”(d) manuscript in black for the incoming ship letter fee to be paid by the recipient.

#### Postal markings:

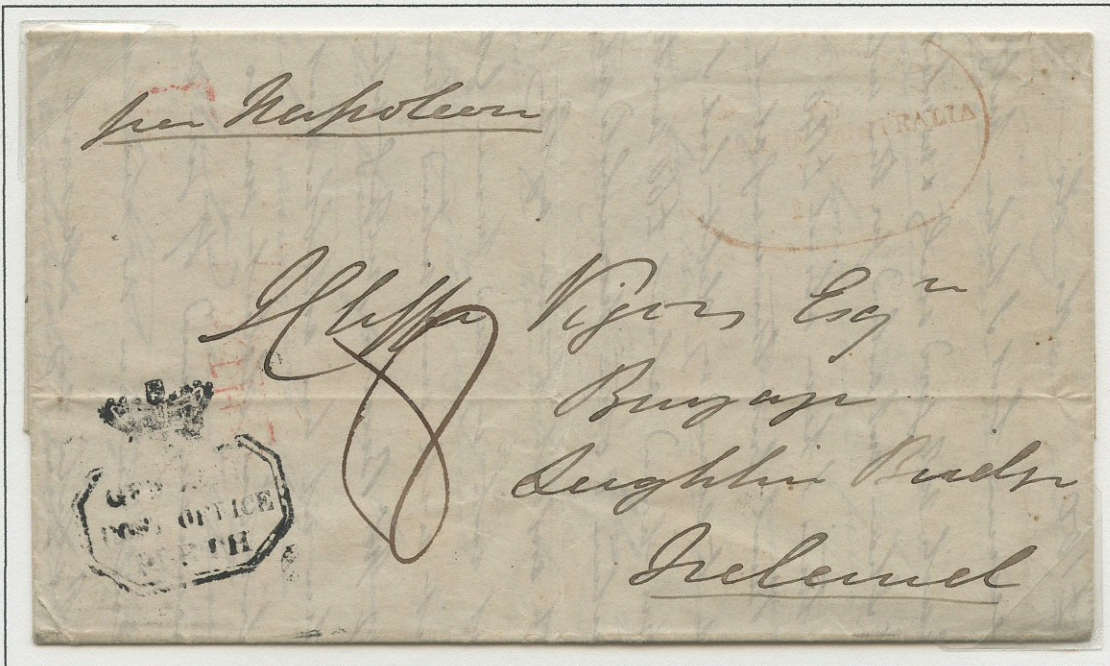
“Crown/ GENERAL/ POST OFFICE/ PERTH” handstamp in black

Ex Taylor



### 1.3 Early Ships Under Sail

### Via Cape of Good Hope



#### Single Rate:

Prepayment of 4d for a ½ oz ship to Ireland.

“8”(d) manuscript in black for the incoming ship letter fee to be paid by the recipient.

#### Postal markings:

“Crown/ POST OFFICE/ PERTH” handstamp in black.

Perth, Western Australia 25.12.1843 to Leighlin Bridge, Ireland

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Perth 14.1.1844 per “Napoleon” to Falmouth 6.5; by private sailing ship to Dublin 8.5; by road to Leighlin Bridge, arriving 12.5.1844. (118 days).

**One of the earliest covers from Western Australia to Ireland recorded**

**Note:** For 1843, a voyage of only 118 days is very quick, with most ships leaving Sydney with the favourable winds via Cape Horn not completing the journey in this time.

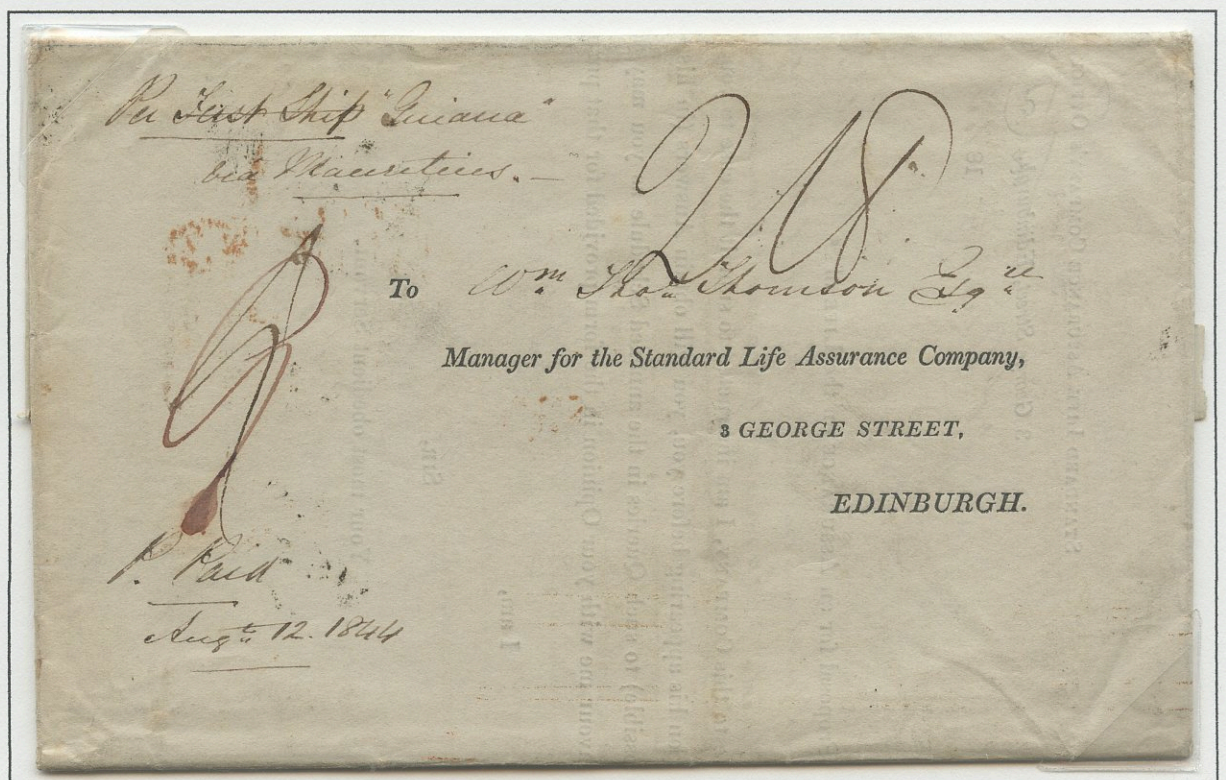
#### Triple Rate:

“9”(d) manuscript in red for prepayment of a 1 oz ship letter to England.

“2/8” manuscript in black representing the incoming ship letter fee for a 2oz letter.

#### Note:

The prepayment and incoming ship letter rates are different on this cover which occasionally occurred in different weight scales.



Adelaide, South Australia 12.8.1844 to Edinburgh, Scotland

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Adelaide 12.8.1844 per “Guiana”, to Mauritius; “Barry” to Cape Town; “Edward Robinson” 10.11 to London 18.1.1845; by rail to Edinburgh, arriving 20.1.1845. (161 days).

**Note:** The above document has been refolded and resent. The original Standard Life Assurance Company entire was sent from Scotland on the 20.12.1843 to Dr. Kent in Adelaide for the assessment of William Pinkerton for Life Insurance. The corresponding form was filled out, refolded, and returned to Edinburgh.



### The Soldiers 1d Concessionary Rate

A soldier's entire from Corporal Thomas Lowe of the 56th Regiment, correctly countersigned by his commanding officer at the lower left authorising the 1d concessional postal rate.

British Regulations passed the Act 1 Vic Cap 34 on the 12.7.1837 providing that the concessional 1d rate was to apply to a single sheet letter, with letters sent via the Cape of Good Hope were subject to an addition 2d sea postage.



Sydney, New South Wales 2.8.1847 to London, England

**Single Rate:** "1d" manuscript in red representing prepayment for a soldier's concessional letter; "2"(d) manuscript in black for carriage by private ship and payable to the ship's master.

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 3.8.1847 per "Princess Royal", arriving London 13.12.1847. (133 days).

Corporal Lowe writes "Left Port Philip last month for Sydney. We are all ready back to New Zealand. All the Regiment is away but 200 of us and we are off in the first ship that comes in."

**Note:** By late 1847, aside from the Wanganui conflict, Corporal Lowe had arrived when there was a period of relative peace in New Zealand for thirteen years until the First Taranaki War in 1860.

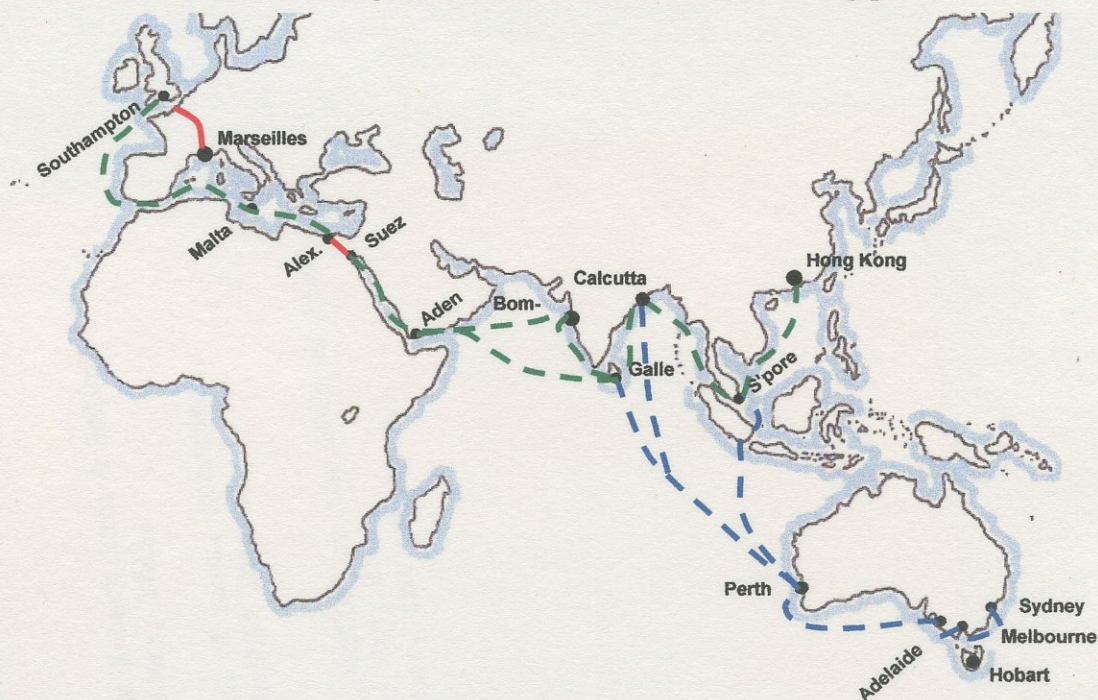


## 1.4 Early Ships Under Sail - Overland via Southampton

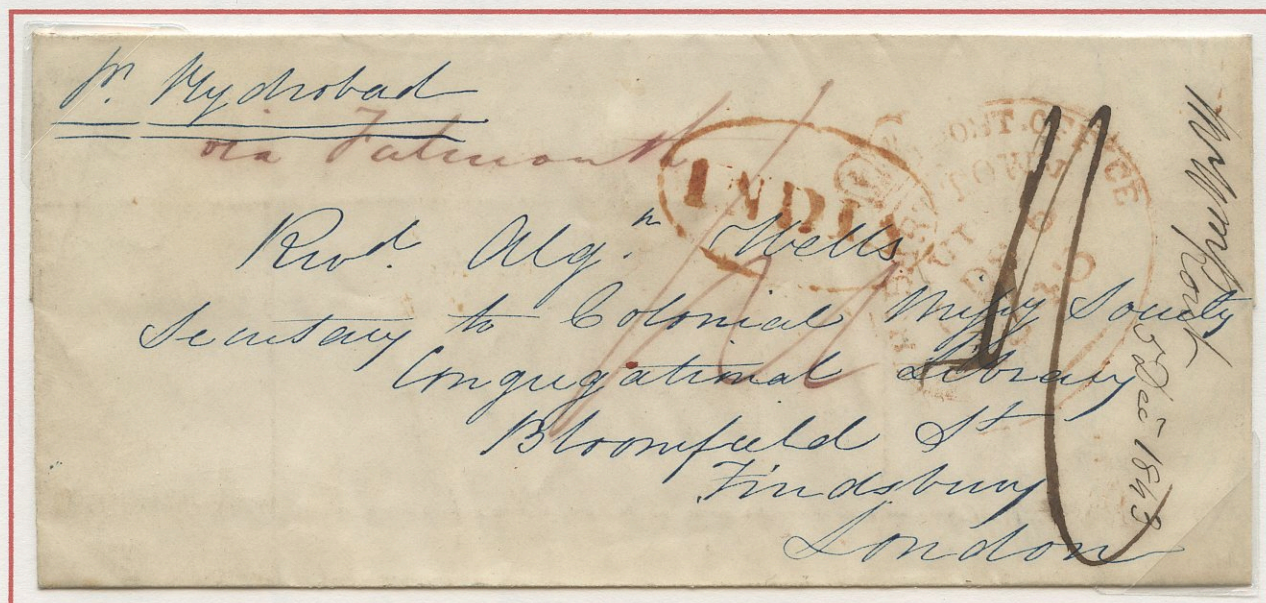
### Australian colonial mail linking in to the northern hemisphere steamer service

In 1835, a monthly steam packet was introduced from Falmouth to Alexandria, however, this had no direct impact on the mails from Australia. From 1839 there was a monthly closed mail between England and India carried by the steamers of the East India Company from Suez to Bombay.

In 1843, the P&O Line service ran from Suez to Calcutta via Galle providing another possible link for Australian Colonial mail to connect to the steam service other than the Bombay option. From 1845 P&O extended their Far East service to Hong Kong via Singapore, so there was another route linking in for Australian mails to be sent via Singapore.



A map showing the mailing routes available to the Australian Colonies linking in to the P&O Line steamer service



Hobart, Van Diemen's Land 6.12.1843 to London, England

**Single rate:** "4"(d) manuscript in red denoting prepayment for a ½ oz ship letter to England; "1/-" manuscript in black for the incoming packet letter fee to be paid by the recipient.

**Postal markings:** "INDIA" handstamp in red applied at Bombay to indicate the letter passed through the mails via India.

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Hobart 12.12.1843 per "Hyderabad" via Galle 4.2.1844 to Bombay 6.3; **East India Co:** Departed Bombay 1.4 per S.S. "Victor" to Suez 24.4, overland to Alexandria; **P&O Line:** "Great Liverpool" 24.4 to Southampton; by rail to London, arriving 11.5.1844. (156 days).

Ex Ward

The earliest cover from Van Diemen's Land overland via Suez recorded



## 1.4 Early Ships Under Sail

### Via Singapore

**Single Rate:** “6”(d) manuscript unusually in black representing the prepayment for a ½ oz ship letter to England;  
“1/-” manuscript in black for the incoming ship letter packet fee via Singapore, Egypt and Southampton.

The envelope was unpaid from England to France.

“20”(decimes) manuscript in black comprising the Great Britain ship letter fees and French inland postage due from the recipient.

**Postal markings:**

“**COLONIES/ART.13**” applied at London for unpaid mail to France.



Perth, Western Australia 23.6.1847 to Lyon, **France**

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Perth 17.7.1847 per “Champion” to Singapore. **P&O Line:** Departed Singapore per “Pekin” 5.9 to Galle 18.8; “Indus” 19.9 via Aden 29.9 to Suez 7.10; overland to Alexandria; “Hindostan” 10.10 via Malta 14.10 and Gibraltar 20.10 to Southampton 26.10; by rail to London 26.10; by steamer to Calais; by rail to Lyon, arriving 30.10.1847. (105 days).

*Ex Walkley*

**The second earliest cover from Western Australia to France recorded and one of two with accountancy handstamps**



Port Adelaide, South Australia 13.8.1847 to London, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Port Adelaide 13.8.1847 per private sailing ship “La Belle Alliance” to Singapore. **P&O Line:** “Lady Mary Wood” 7.11 to Galle; “Precursor” 16.11 via Aden 27.11 to Suez 4.12; overland from Suez to Alexandria; “Hindostan” 9.12 via Malta 13.12 and Gibraltar 19.12 to Southampton 27.12; by rail to London, arriving 28.12.1847. (137 days).

**Single Rate:**

“6”(d) manuscript in black representing the prepayment for a ½ oz ship letter to England;

“1/-” manuscript in black for the incoming ship letter packet fee via Singapore, Egypt and Southampton to be paid by the recipient.

**Postal markings:**

“**Lion/Crown/POST OFFICE/PORT ADELAIDE**” in black









Perth, Western Australia 5.6.1855 to Kettering, England (E)

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Perth 10.6.55 per "Aerolite" to Galle; **P&O Line:** "Hindustan" 29.7 via Aden 11.8 to Suez 18.8; overland to Alexandria; "Indus" 21.8 via Malta 25.8 and Gibraltar 30.8 to Southampton 4.9, by rail to Kettering, arriving 5.9.1855. (92 days).

*Ex Taylor, Lord Vestey*

#### A rare overland routing for mail from South Australia

#### Single Rate:

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

"3" handstamp in red credit to Great Britain for a non-contract ship letter fee.

**Note:** It is unusual that the overland incoming ship letter fee of 1/4d was not applied to this envelope and was overlooked by the postal officials.



Adelaide, South Australia 15.10.1856 to London, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Adelaide 16.10.1856 per "Poitiers" to Galle. **P&O Line:** Departed Galle 1.12 per "Bengal" via Aden 9.12 to Suez 15.12; overland to Alexandria; "Rippon" 26.12 via Malta 30.12 and Gibraltar 4.1.1857 to Southampton 10.1; by rail to London, arriving 12.1.1857. (89 days).

**Note:** The majority of mail from South Australia was directed to the contract clipper service unless endorsed separately like this cover. This envelope was endorsed per the French vessel "Poitiers" to Galle to catch the overland service. The voyage of 89 days compares favourably to the contract clipper "Heather Bell" which departed later on the 31.10 for a passage of 101 days.



## 1.5 Early Ships Under Sail - Overland via Marseilles

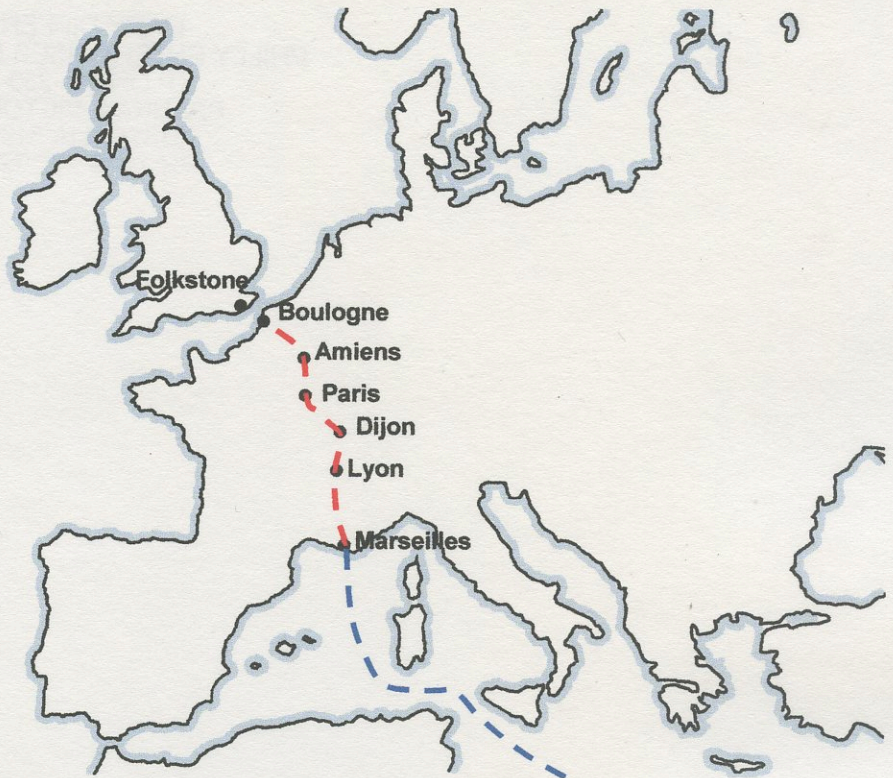
### Australian mail linking in with the northern hemisphere steamer service and sent overland via Marseilles

The overland route via Marseilles was opened for British closed mails in 1839 as a result of the Anglo-French Postal Treaty. The original route was "by diligence" to Calais.

The opening of the rail link in 1844 created a much quicker service. The Australian Colonial mails did not take advantage of this service until the opening of the rail link.

Although available, it was not commonly used until the Australian contract steamer service from 1852.

A map of the Marseilles rail link from 1844 with the steamer connection to Alexandria via Malta.



### Via Singapore

#### Single rate:

"Pd 2/10" manuscript in black for prepayment

"1/10" manuscript in black for the incoming packet letter fee comprising 1/5d via Marseilles and India and 5d for a 1/4 oz ship letter via France to be paid by the recipient.

#### Postal markings:

"PAID/ FREMANTLE" in black indicating prepayment.

"INDIA" handstamp in red applied at Bombay to indicate the letter passed through the mails via India.



Fremantle, Western Australia 10.4.1843 to Southampton, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Fremantle 8.7.1843 per "Success" via Singapore to Madras; overland to Bombay; **East India Co:** Departed Bombay 1.1.1844 per S.S. "Berenice" to Suez 21.1, overland to Alexandria; **P&O Line:** "Oriental" 23.1 to Malta 28.1; Polyphemus" 28.1 to Marseille 1.2; by rail via London to Southampton, arriving 8.2.1844. (215 days).

**The earliest overland via Suez cover from Western Australia recorded**



## 1.5 Early Ships Under Sail

## Overland via Marseilles

**Toulmin Packet Service:** In early 1846, the Toulmin Brothers were contracted for five homeward packets to carry the mails to India, via the Torres Strait. These letters were placed in the Indian mails and rated as India letters upon arrival in England. These voyages were made in an attempt to speed up the service whilst avoiding the monsoon season, however, there was no time advantage gained and the cost was prohibitive. This route was abandoned for the original Cape Horn route until the end of the contract in mid 1849.

### Double Rate:

“3” manuscript in red representing prepayment for a ¼ oz ship letter to England;

“1/10” manuscript in black comprising 1/5d for the British incoming packet rate for a ½ oz ship letter via Marseilles and 5d for the French transit to be paid by the recipient.



Sydney, New South Wales 30.7.1847 to London, England

**Route - Toulmin Packet Service:** Departed Sydney 2.8.1846 per “Eagle” via Torres Strait to Galle. **Private sailing ship:** to Calcutta 20.10. **P&O Line:** Departed Calcutta 8.11 per “Precursor” via Aden to Suez 5.12; overland to Alexandria; “Ripon” 11.12 to Malta 16.12. **Admiralty Mediterranean Steam Packet:** Departed Malta per “Flamer” 16.12 to Marseilles 24.12; by rail from Marseilles to London, arriving 29.12.1846. (149 days).



Sydney, New South Wales 18.6.1849 to London, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 18.6.1849 per private sailing ship “Sir George Seymour” to Singapore. **P&O Line:** Departed Singapore 6.7 per “Malta” to Galle; “Bentinck” 23.9 via Aden to Suez 13.10; overland to Alexandria; “Hindustan” 16.10 to Malta 20.10. **Admiralty Mediterranean Steam Packet:** Departed Malta per “Medina” 20.10 to Marseilles 23.10; by rail from Marseilles to London, arriving 27.10.1849. (131 days).

## Via Singapore

### Double Rate:

“1/9d” manuscript in red representing prepayment for a ½ oz ship letter to England via Marseilles;

“4/9” manuscript in black comprising 3/9d for double the British incoming packet rate for a ½ oz ship letter via Marseilles and 1/- for the French transit to be paid by the recipient.



## 1.5 Early Ships Under Sail

## Overland via Marseilles

Via Galle

### Mail from Tahiti linking in with the Australian ship mails

#### Single Rate:

“3” manuscript in red representing the prepayment for a ¼ oz ship letter to England;

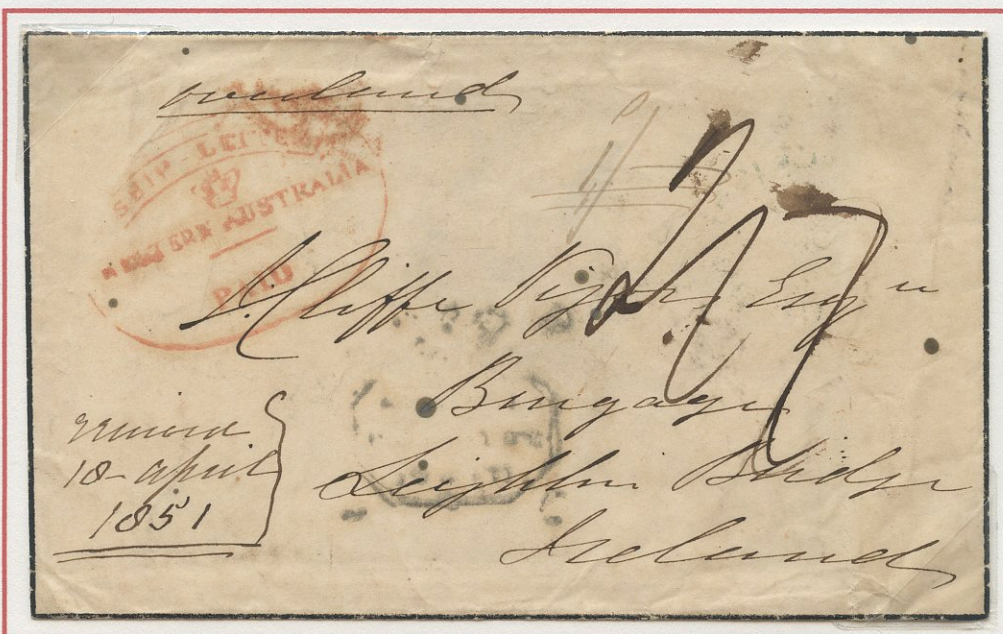
“2/2” manuscript in black comprising 1/5d for the British incoming packet rate via India, Egypt and Marseilles, 5d French transit for a ¼ oz ship letter, and 4d for a ship letter east of India to be paid by the recipient.

**Note:** This ship letter was incorrectly charged via India instead of the 4d cheaper route via Galle.



Tahiti 4.9.1850 to London, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Tahiti 9.1850 per “Mary Anne” to Sydney 20.10. Departed Sydney 2.11 per “Cullidon” to Galle. **P&O Line:** Departed Galle 16.3.1851 per “Oriental” via Aden 25.3 to Suez 1.4; overland to Alexandria; “Indus” 6.4 to Malta 10.4. **Admiralty Mediterranean Steam Packet:** Departed Malta per “Medina” 10.4 to Marseilles 13.4; by rail from Marseilles to London, arriving 16.4.1851. (224 days).



Perth, Western Australia 2.1851 to Ireland

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Perth 21.2.1851 per “Royal Saxon” to Galle; **P&O Line:** “Oriental” 16.3 via Aden 25.3 to Suez 1.4; overland from Suez to Alexandria; “Indus” 6.4 to Malta 10.4. **Admiralty Mediterranean Steam Packet:** H.M.S. “Medusa” 10.4 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 13.4, to London 16.4; by steamer to Ireland, arriving 17.4.1851. (55 days).

Ex Hiscock



A late cover posted a month before the first Australian steam packet contracts

**Single Rate:** Prepayment of 3d for a ½ oz ship letter to England; Unpaid from England to France.

“2/2” manuscript in black comprising the 1/- incoming packet letter rate to England; plus 4d via India; and 10d to France for transit via Marseilles; “15”(decimes) in black representing the British fees plus French internal postage to be paid by the recipient.

**Postal markings:**

“**COLONIES/&cART.13**” handstamp in red applied at London for unpaid mail to France.



Sydney, New South Wales 26.7.1852 to Paris, **France**

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 26.7.1852 per “Sir George Seymour” to Galle. **P&O Line:** “Hindostan” 17.9 via Aden 27.9 to Suez 4.10; overland to Alexandria. **Royal Navy ship:** H.M.S. “Triton” 19.10 to Malta 23.10; H.M.S. “Banshee” 9.11 to Marseilles 11.11; by rail to Paris, arriving 16.11.1852. (113 days).

*Ex Forster, Palmer*

Three Sydney View covers to France are recorded



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail - Via other routes

### Historical overview

During the early ships under sail period, the only specific mail routes were via Cape Horn or overland via Suez. These mail routes did not expand until developments in steam technology made alternative options more viable.

For mail not destined for England, Europe or the United States, colonists had to wait for the next available merchant ship for a particular destination. Ship captains would often wait in harbour for two months until they had a sufficient cargo to sail. Letters to the more unusual destinations could take many months to be delivered.

Routes within this section are represented by via the Tasman Sea; the Indian Ocean; the Pacific Ocean; and via Panama or Callao.

### Via Pacific Ocean



#### Double Rate:

“6”(d) manuscript in red representing prepayment for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz ship letter to Chile;  
“2”(reales) manuscript in black for internal postage to be paid by the recipient.

Sydney, New South Wales 1.8.1840 to Valparaiso, **Chile**

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 1.8.1840 per barque “England” to Valparaiso, arriving 28.9.1840. (58 days).

*Ex Molnar, Forster, Peace*

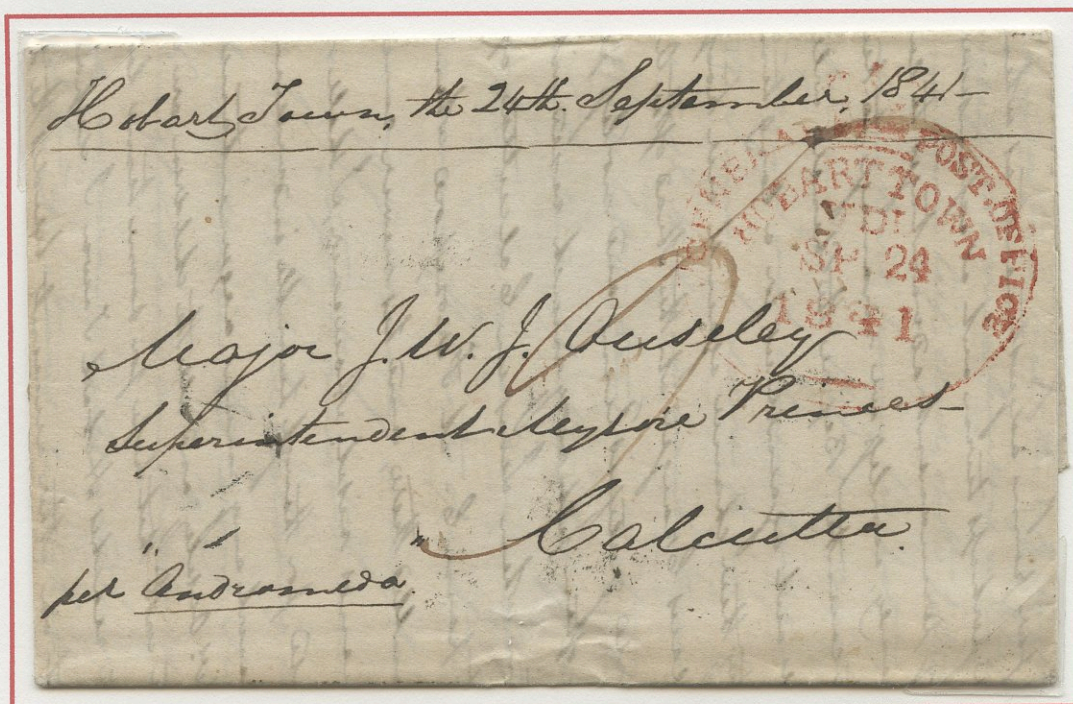
**The earliest cover from the Australian Colonies to South America recorded**



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

### Via Indian Ocean

### Via other routes



#### Single Rate:

"5"(d) manuscript in red for a ½ oz ship letter to India.

Hobart, Van Diemen's Land 24.9.1841 to Calcutta, **India**

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Hobart 4.10.1841 per barque "Andromeda" to Calcutta, arriving 4.1.1841. (103 days).

Ex McNamee

One of the earliest covers from Van Diemen's Land to India recorded



Perth, Western Australia 28.10.1841 to Calcutta, **India**

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed 1.1842 per "Champion" to Calcutta, arriving 23.2.1842. (118 days).

Ex Taylor

The earliest cover from Western Australia to India recorded



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

Via other routes

### Via Indian Ocean

#### Single Rate:

"1/3" manuscript in red comprising 1/- internal postage from Musclevbrook to Sydney plus the 3d for a ½ oz ship letter to India.

#### Postal markings:

"**MUSCLEBROOK/PAID**" handstamp in red representing the prepayment.



Musclevbrook, New South Wales 27.3.1844 to Calcutta, India

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 17.4.1844 per "Medusa" to Calcutta; redirected by steamer to Madras 4.6; overland to Tumlook.

One of the earliest covers from New South Wales to India recorded



Sydney, New South Wales 14.8.1846 to Singapore

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 22.8.1846 per barque "Eliza" to Batavia; "Kyle" to Singapore, arriving 4.1.1847. (143 days).

**Note:** The two pre-stamp envelopes recorded from New South Wales to Singapore are from the same correspondence, posted on the same day, and sent via the "Eliza". This is the only registered example.

The earliest cover from New South Wales to Singapore recorded

#### Double Rate:

"6"(d) manuscript in red representing prepayment of a ¾oz ship letter plus 6d registration to Singapore.

#### Postal markings:

"**Registered/Sydney**" in red;

"**FORWARDED BY/ MACLAINE WATSON & Co./ BATAVIA**" forwarding agents cachet in red



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

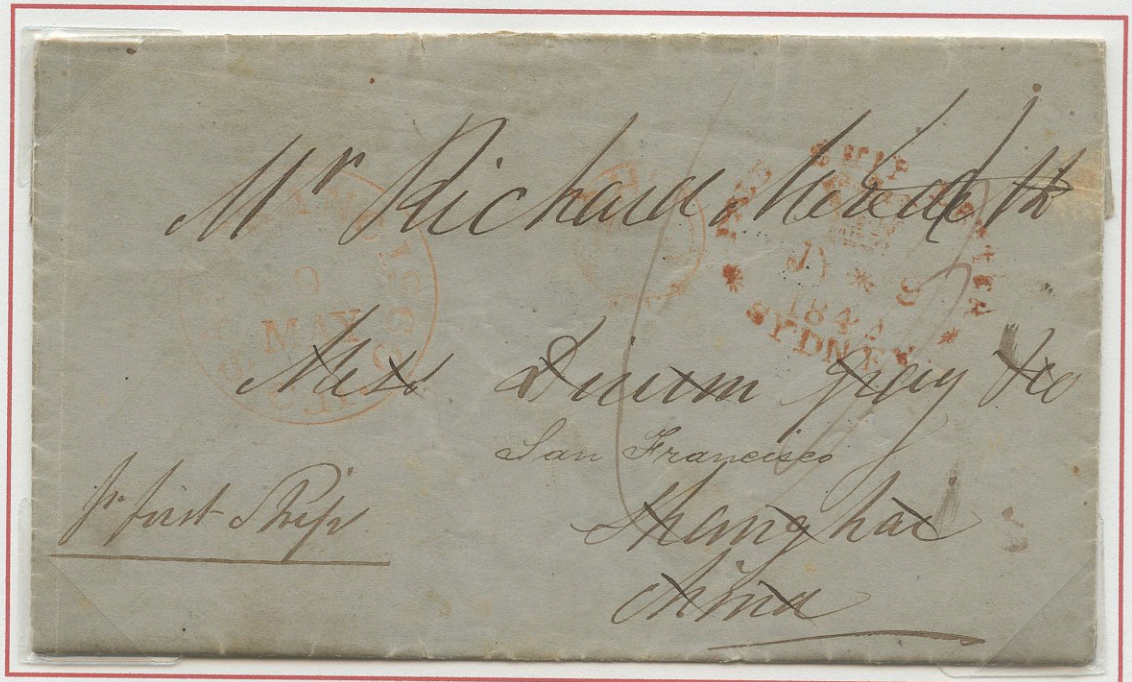
Via other routes

### Via Pacific Ocean

#### Double Rate:

"6"(d) manuscript in red representing prepayment for a 1oz ship letter to China.

"6"(cents) manuscript in black representing the inwards ship letter fee to be paid by the recipient.



Brisbane, Moreton Bay District 8.7.1849 to Shanghai, China, redirected to the United States

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Brisbane by private sailing ship to Sydney. Departed Sydney 16.8.1849 per barque "John Witt" to Hong Kong 20.10; by private ship to Shanghai; by private ship to San Francisco, arriving 9.5.1850. (305 days).

Ex Boston

The earliest cover from the Australian Colonies to China recorded

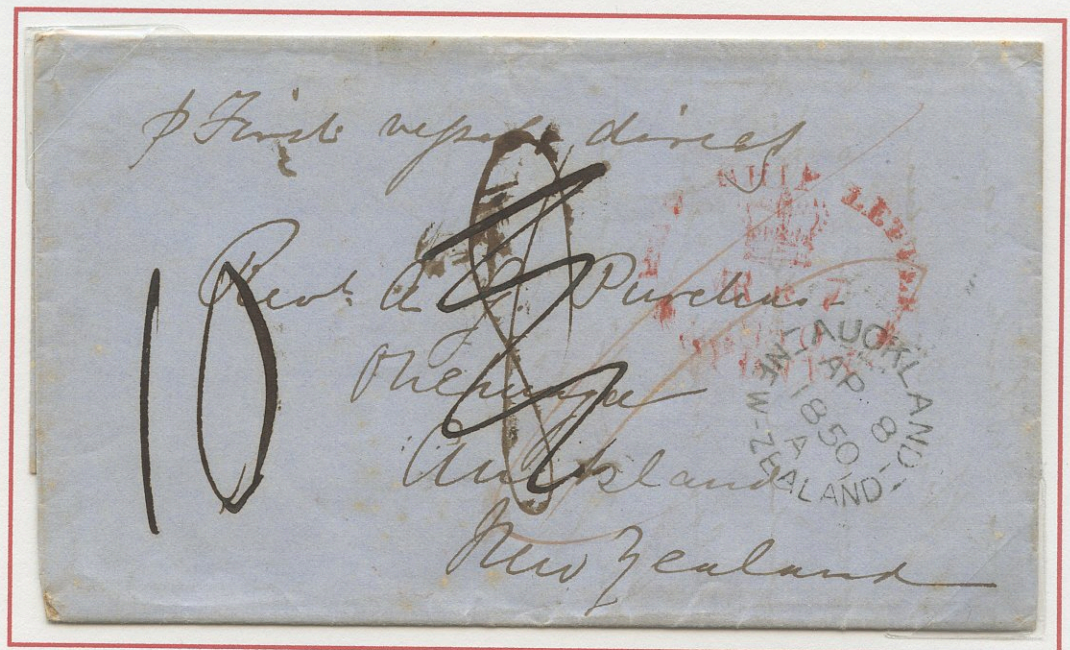
### Via Tasman Sea

#### Rate:

"1/-" manuscript in red representing prepayment for a 2 oz ship letter to New Zealand.

"10"(d) manuscript in black for the incoming letter rate for five items to be paid by the recipient.

Unusual rate markings for a ship letter



Sydney, New South Wales 7.3.1850 to Auckland, New Zealand

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 20.3.1850 per "Emma" to Auckland, arriving 8.4.1850. (32 days).

**Note:** The manuscript rate markings on this entire are difficult to interpret given that it is only a single sheeted entire. The standard ship letter rate of 3d should apply, and the New Zealand inwards ship letter fee was only 2d. However, the text of the writer states "Enclosed are two letters and two lists of goods which have reached me from Liverpool". The manuscript marks on the front of this letter is prepaying the other four items which would have been enclosed as a bundle. Therefore, the rate markings of 1/- prepayment for five items up to 2 oz; and 10d for 5 x 2d incoming ship letter fees on this entire are now correct.

One of the earliest covers from New South Wales to New Zealand recorded



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

### Via other routes

#### Via San Francisco



#### Single Rate:

Prepayment of 3d for a ½ oz ship letter to the United States of America.

Sydney, New South Wales 19.5.1852 to San Francisco, United States

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 21.5.1852 per “Corsair” via Riata and Tahiti to San Francisco, arriving 7.9.1852. (109 days).

Four Sydney View covers to the United States recorded

A rare registered cover to New Zealand with the only recorded example of the Registered at Melbourne cachet

#### Via Tasman Sea

#### Single Rate:

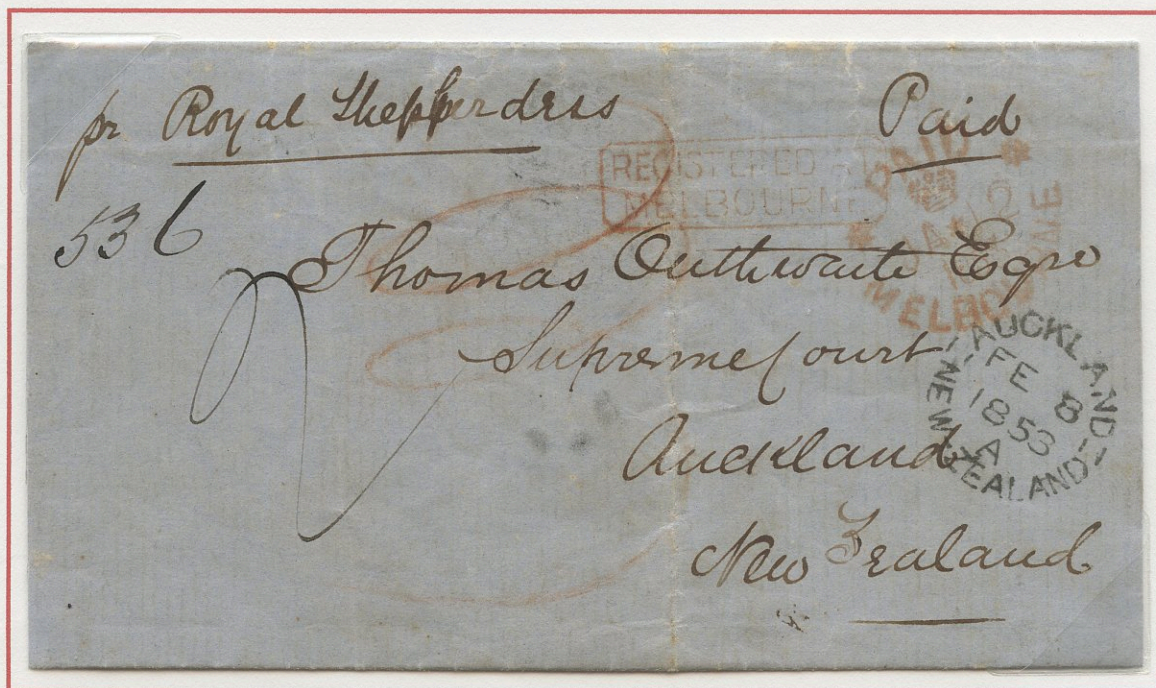
“3”(d) manuscript in red representing prepayment for a ½ oz ship letter to New Zealand.

“2”(d) manuscript in black for the incoming letter fee to be paid by the recipient.

#### Postal markings:

“REGISTERED AT/MELBOURNE” cachet in red.

**Note:** The 6d registration fee was paid in cash.



Melbourne, Victoria 2.1.1853 to Auckland, New Zealand

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 12.1.1853 per “Royal Shepherders” to Auckland, arriving 8.2.1853. (37 days).

The earliest cover from Victoria to New Zealand recorded

Ex Watson; Winchester

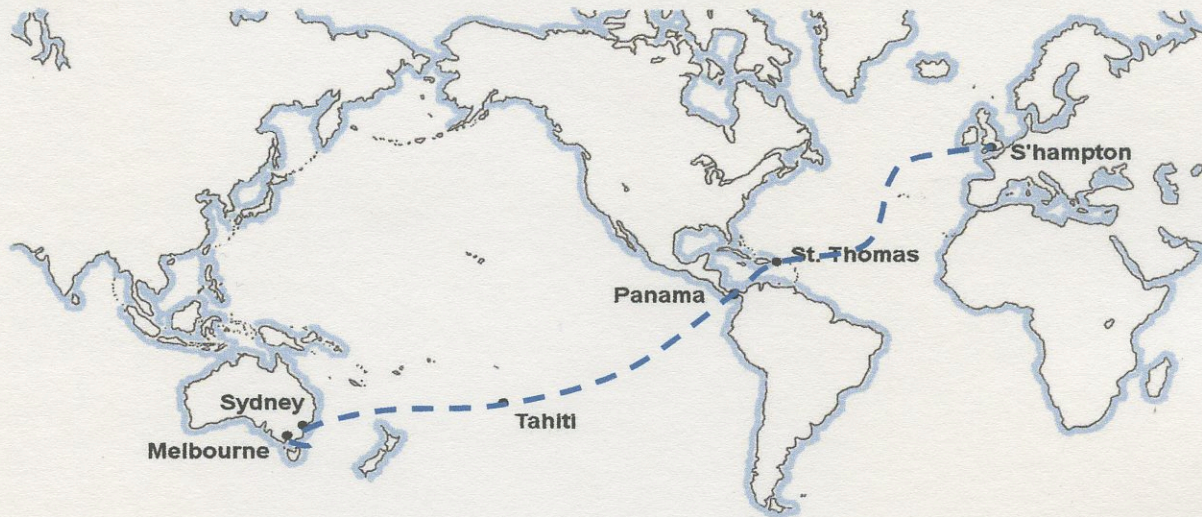


## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

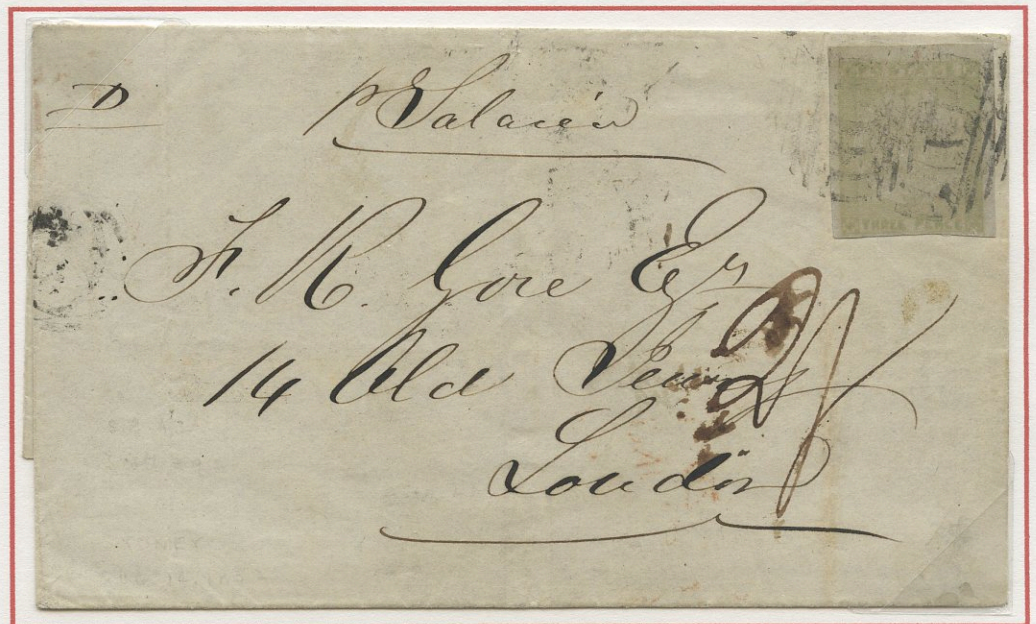
## Via other routes

### Via Panama

One of the earliest alternative routes to England was via Panama. The short 76km isthmus between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea had long encouraged mariners and traders to bypass the long journey around Cape Horn. This mail route was initially available to the Australian colonists in the very late 1840's, with letters carted by mules until the railway was completed from Balboa near Panama City to Aspinwall in 1855. Australian Colonial mail via the Panama route is very scarce.



The only Sydney View cover sent via the Panama route recorded



### Single Rate:

Prepayment of 3d for a 1/2oz ship letter to England via Panama.

"2/-" manuscript in black applied in England for the incoming ship letter fee via Panama to be paid by the recipient.

Sydney, New South Wales 14.8.1852 to London, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 16.8.1852 per "Salacia" to Callao. **Pacific Steam Navigation Co:** Steamer to Panama; overland to Chagres. **Royal Mail Steam Packet Co:** "Great Western" 18.10 to St. Thomas 31.10; "La Plata" 31.10 to Southampton 17.11; mail delayed two days for quarantine; by rail to London, arriving 19.11.1852. (97 days).

**Quarantine of the mails at Southampton:** During the voyage, yellow fever struck the ship with Captain Allan perishing at sea.

The earliest quarantined mail from the Australian Colonies recorded



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

Via other routes

### Via Panama



#### Single Rate:

Prepayment of 3d for a ½oz ship letter to the United States of America.

“12”(cents) handstamp in black representing the inwards ship letter for over 3,000 miles from port of entry (2 cents for the ships captain) to be paid by the recipient.

Sydney, New South Wales 15.2.1853 to Philadelphia, United States of America

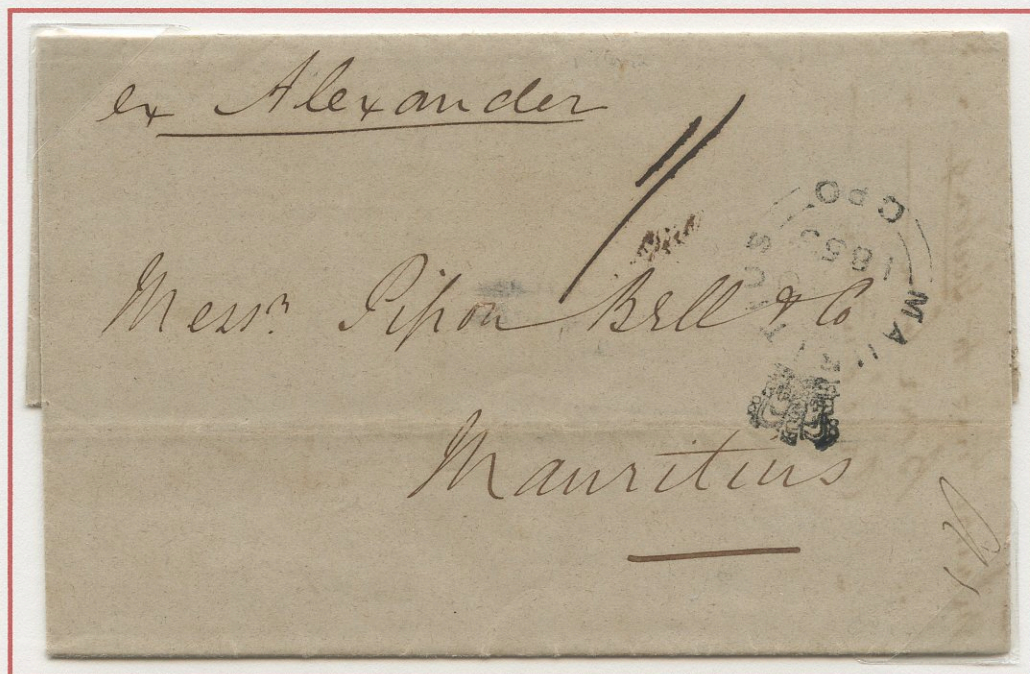
**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 16.2.1853 per “Jessie Byrne” to San Francisco 18.5; **Pacific Mail Steamship Co:** Departed San Francisco 2.6 per “Golden Gate” to Panama; overland to Aspinwall; **United States Mail Steamship Co:** Departed Aspinwall 19.6 per “Georgia” via Havana to New York; by rail to Philadelphia.

Ex Forster

### Via Indian Ocean

**Rate:** Unpaid ship letter to Mauritius.

“1/-” manuscript in black representing the incoming ship letter fee to be paid by the recipient.



Melbourne, Victoria 30.3.1853 to Port Louis, Mauritius

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 31.3.1853 per private sailing ship “James Alexander” to Port Louis, Mauritius, arriving 30.5.1853. (60 days).

The earliest cover from Victoria to Mauritius recorded

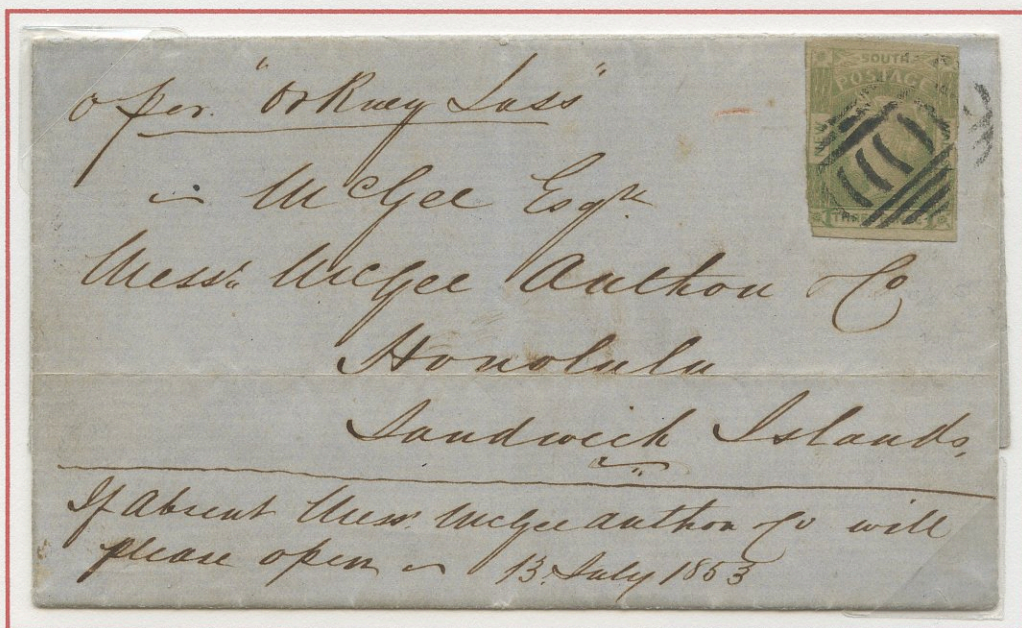


## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

Via other routes

### Via Pacific Ocean

**Single Rate:** Prepayment of 3d for a ½ oz ship letter to the Sandwich Islands.

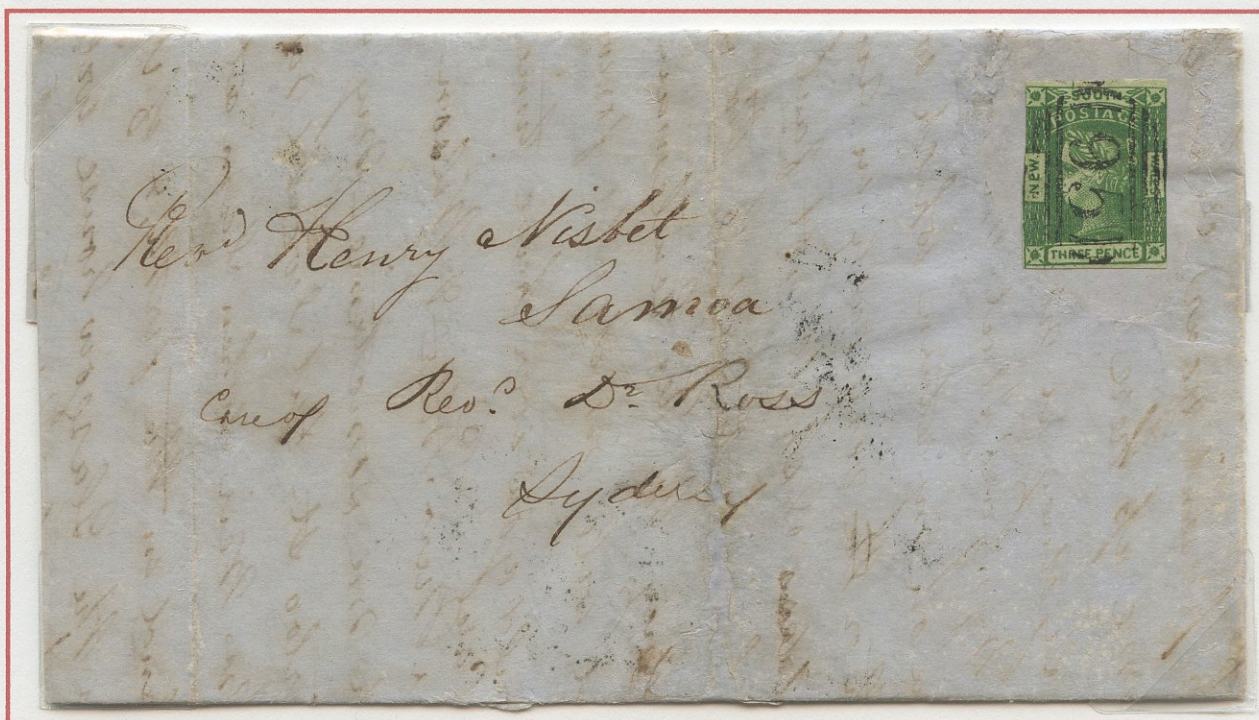


Sydney, New South Wales 15.7.1853 to Honolulu, **Sandwich Islands (E)**

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 16.7.1853 per sailing ship "Orkney Lass" to Honolulu.

Ex Mitchell, Palmer

The earliest cover from the Australian Colonies to the Sandwich Islands recorded



Brisbane, Moreton Bay District 29.6.1854 to **Samoa**

**Single Rate:** Prepayment of 3d for a ½ oz ship letter to the Samoa.

**Route - Private steamer:** Departed Brisbane 30.6.1854 per "Shamrock" to Sydney. **Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 17.7 per "John Williams" to Samoa. **Note:** The 3d adhesive does not belong to the cover.

The only cover from the Moreton Bay District to Samoa recorded



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

Via other routes

### Via Panama

#### Single Rate:

"1/-" manuscript in red for prepayment of a ½oz ship letter to England via Panama.  
"2/-" manuscript in black applied in England for the incoming ship letter fee via Panama to be paid by the recipient.



St. Kilda, Victoria 30.6.1854 to Wakefield, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 1.7.1854 per "Parsee" to Callao 25.9; mail delayed 30 days. **Pacific Steam Navigation Co:** "Santiago" 26.10 to Panama; overland to Chagres. **Royal Mail Steam Packet Co:** "Dee" 8.11 to St. Thomas; "Magdalena" 15.11 to Southampton 1.12; by rail to Wakefield, arriving 2.12.1854. (156 days).

**Delay of mails in Callao:** During the 1850's, the postal authorities in Callao delayed British closed mail bags which were being transferred from one British ship to another. The dispute centred on whether such mails should be charged a ship fee. These delays lasted 4-8 weeks, with no resolution if the dispute was ever resolved.

#### Internal advertising within the lettersheet

Inside this lettersheet is a full page advertisement for Mrs. Birchall home education for young ladies in St. Kilda. Aside from the "Prices Current Lists", this is the earliest form of lettersheet advertising from Victoria recorded.

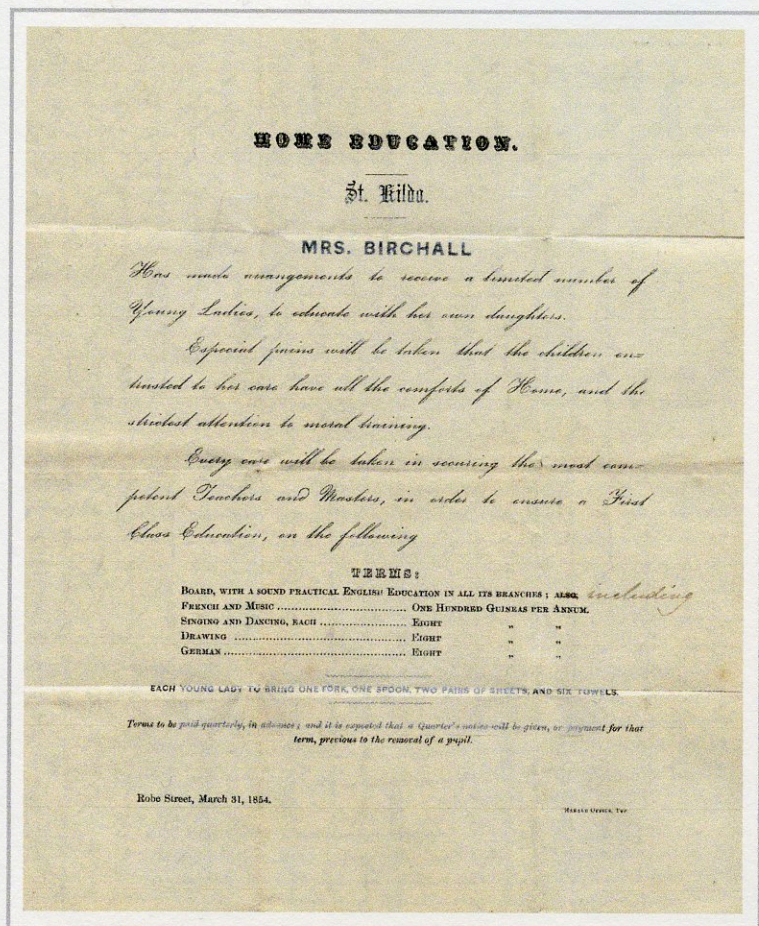
At the left is a scan of the internal advertisement.

#### Details in the letter concerning the bushranger Captain Melville

The letter mentions a convict who received a further colonial sentence in Victoria of 30 years for bushranging.

This was the sentence received by the notorious bushranger Francis McCallum (alias Captain Melville). Sentenced to transportation to Van Diemen's Land in 1838 for housebreaking, he absconded from various employment between 1840-50.

Arriving in Victoria, the discovery of gold gave further scope to his bushranging activities and he was captured at Geelong in December 1852. He was sentenced to 30 years at his trial in 1853. In July 1857, McCallum attacked the Governor of Melbourne Gaol. Whilst awaiting further sentence, he committed suicide in his cell on the 12.8.1857.





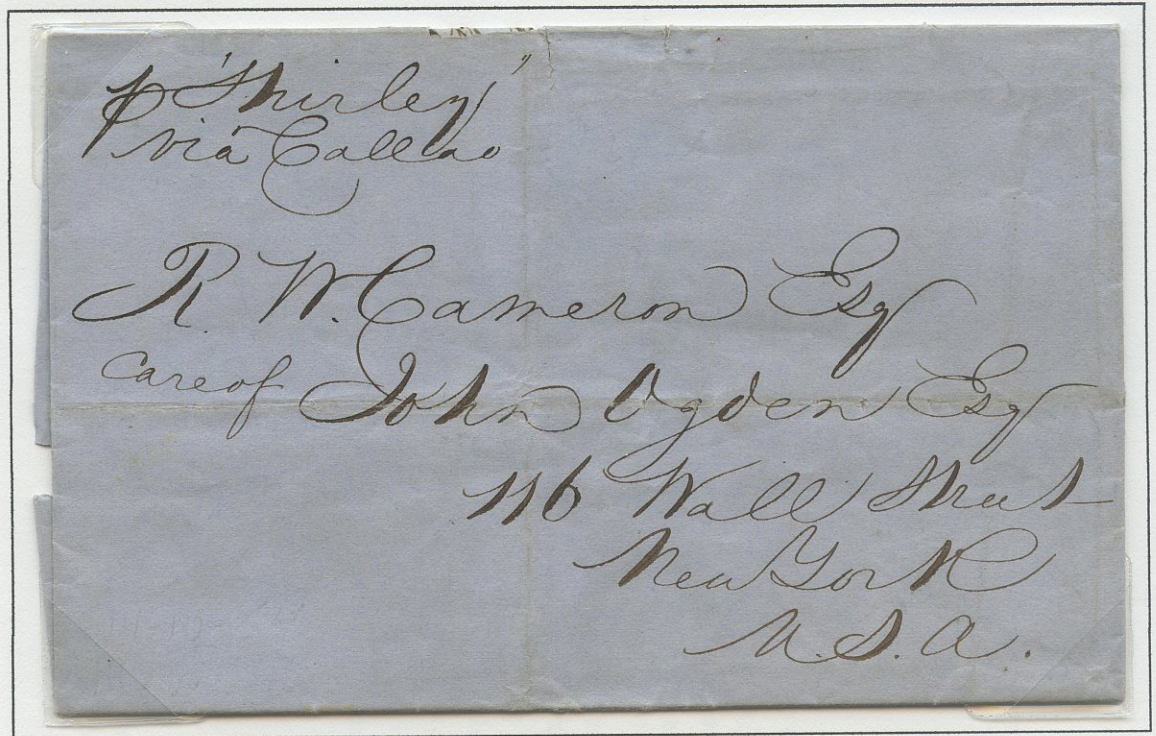
## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

Via other routes

### Via Callao and Panama

#### Rate - Consignee's letter:

Unpaid consignees ship letter carried by private ship to New York.



Melbourne, Victoria 14.10.1854 to New York, United States of America

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 28.10.1854 per "Shirley" to Callao 12.3; arriving in New York 22.4.1855. (176 days).

**Note:** There are no postal datestamps on this entire which was carried privately for the full journey to New York.

### Via Callao and Panama

#### Single Rate:

Prepayment of 3d of a ½ oz ship letter to England.

"3" manuscript in black for the incoming ship letter fee to be paid by the recipient.

**Note:** The incoming ship letter fee should have been 2/- for the route via Panama, but this was overlooked.



Sydney, New South Wales 30.6.1855 to London, England

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 3.7.1855 per "Peru" to Callao 25.8; **Pacific Steam Navigation Co:** Departed Callao 26.8 per "Valdivia" to Panama 5.9; overland to Colon. **The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co:** Departed Colon 8.9 per SS "Clyde" to St. Thomas; "Magdalena" to Southampton 2.10; by rail to London, arriving 13.11.1855. (71 days).

Ex Tabcart

A very scarce cover sent via Callao and Panama



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

### Via other routes

#### Via Pacific Ocean



#### Single Rate:

Prepayment of 6d of a ½ oz ship letter to the Philippines.

“1” (reale) handstamp in black representing the incoming letter fee to be paid by the recipient.

Melbourne, Victoria 3.9.1855 to Manilla, **Philippines**

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 3.9.1855 per “Benjamin Heape” to Guam; by private sailing ship to Manilla, arriving 13.11.1855. (71 days).

**The third earliest cover from Victoria to the Philippines recorded**

#### Via Indian Ocean



Melbourne, Victoria 26.9.1855 to Port Louis, **Mauritius**

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 1.12.1855 per “Sea Belle” via Batavia, arriving Port Louis, Mauritius 10.2.1856. (137 days).

**Note:** Although posted on the 26.9, the cover was delayed on the endorsed sailing ship “Sea Belle” which was still waiting for a full cargo before leaving over two months later on the 1.12. This cover shows how precarious the time taken to deliver mails to foreign destinations which were not on the traditional contract routes.

**The earliest stamped cover from Victoria to Mauritius recorded**



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

### Via other routes

#### Via Indian Ocean



#### Single Rate:

Prepayment of 3d for the 1/2 oz ship letter to Cape of Good Hope.

“8” manuscript in black for the incoming ship letter fee to be paid by the recipient.

Sydney, New South Wales 11.11.1855 to Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 1.12.1855 per “Fanny Fisher” via Adelaide and Mauritius, arriving 6.5.1856. (156 days).

The second earliest stamped cover from New South Wales to Cape of Good Hope recorded

#### Via Chile

#### Single Rate:

Prepayment of 6d for a 1/2 oz ship letter to Chile.

“25c”(centavos) manuscript in black to be paid by the recipient.

#### Postal markings:

“ULTRAMAR” handstamp in black for the incoming overseas ship letter.



Sydney, New South Wales 5.1.1856 to Valparaiso, Chile

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 8.1.1856 per “Oberon” to Valparaiso, arriving 23.2.1856. (49 days).

The earliest stamped cover from New South Wales to Chile recorded



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

### Via other routes

#### Via Tasman Sea



#### Double Rate:

Prepayment of 1/- for a 1oz ship letter to New Zealand.

#### Postal markings:

"4"(d) handstamp in black for the incoming ship letter fee to be paid by the recipient.

Melbourne, Victoria 29.9.1856 to Wellington, New Zealand

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 30.9.1856 per steamship "Wonga Wonga" to Sydney. Departed Sydney 2.10 per "Taranaki" to Wellington, arriving 31.10.1856. (32 days).

One of the earliest covers from Victoria to New Zealand recorded



#### Via Callao

#### Single Rate:

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

"25"(centavos) handstamp in red for the internal ship letter fee to be paid by the recipient.

Melbourne, Victoria 11.8.1857 to Valparaiso, Chile

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 11.8.1857 per "William Jackson" via Callao to Valparaiso, arriving 9.11.1857. (90 days).

Four covers from Victoria to Chile recorded



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

Via other routes

### Via Callao and Panama

One of the most important covers sent via Callao and Panama from the Australian Colonies

#### Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 3/4d and underpaid for a ship letter of over 1 oz to the United States of America. "1/4" manuscript in red credit to Great Britain for transatlantic shipment crossed out since the letter was not sent via that route.

#### Postal markings:

"INSUFFICIENTLY PAID/ VIA MARSEILLES" handstamp in red recognising the underpayment.

**Note:** There were no published rates for letters over 1oz from Victoria. The envelope was prepaid for up to 1oz but was overweight, however, it is interesting to note that the letter was not redirected to the cheaper route of via Southampton. Instead, the cover was placed in the slowest possible route of via Callao.



Melbourne, Victoria 16.5.1858 to Boston, United States of America

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 23.5.1858 per "Wellfleet" to Callao; by British packet steamer from Callao to Panama; overland to Aspinwall. **Pacific Mail Steamship Co:** Departed Aspinwall 4.7 per "Star of the West" to New York 13.8.1858; by rail to Boston. (over 82 days).

**Note:** The indicators that this envelope was sent via Callao are that there are no transit datestamps for London or transatlantic handstamps for its arrival in the United States. The postal officials of Great Britain and the United States were meticulous in recording the accounting deficiencies between both countries, with covers from this period distinctly cancelled to record these shortfalls. This envelope has none of these cancellations.

Ex Purves, Perry, Geitenbeek



## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

## Via other routes

### Via Callao and Panama



#### Single Rate:

Consignee ship letter paid to Panama. Unpaid to the United States of America.

#### Postal markings:

"PAID TO/ PANAMA" in black applied at the British post office at Panama City.

"STEAMSHIP/20" in black applied at New York representing 20cents transit postage due to be paid by the recipient.

Melbourne, Victoria 1.12.1857 to Boston, United States of America

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 7.12.1857 per "Linda" to Callao; overland to Aspinwall. **Pacific Mail Steamship Co:** Departed Aspinwall 16.2 per "Star of the West" to New York 28.3.1858; by rail to Boston. (over 117 days).

Ex Purves

Five examples of the PAID TO/PANAMA handstamp are recorded on Australian Colonial mail

## Via Tasman Sea

#### Single Rate:

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



Port Adelaide, South Australia 10.8. 1859 to Auckland, New Zealand

**Route - Private steamship:** Departed Adelaide 11.8.1859 per "Havilah" to Melbourne. **Private sailing ship:** Departed Melbourne 15.8 per "Wanderer" to Auckland, arriving 6.9.1859. (27 days).

The earliest cover from South Australia to New Zealand recorded



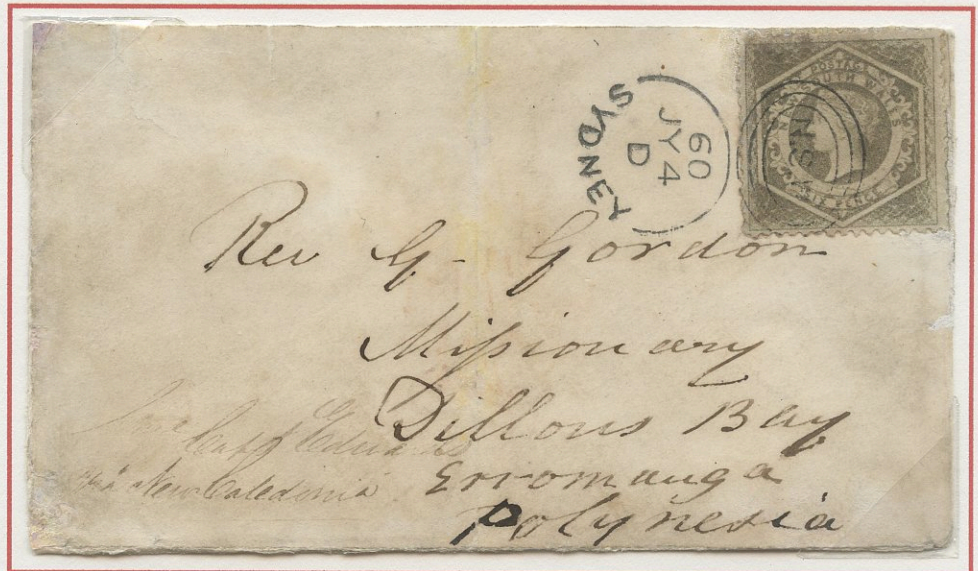
## 1.6 Early Ships Under Sail

## Via other routes

### Via Pacific Ocean

#### Single Rate:

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



Sydney, New South Wales 4.7.1860 to Erromanga, New Caledonia

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 11.7.1860 per "Boniti" to Noumea; by sailing ship to Dillon's Bay, Erromango.

**The earliest postal cover from the Australian Colonies to New Caledonia recorded**

**Note:** Reverend George Gordon arrived at Erromango in June 1857 to evangelise among the natives. About forty natives of Erromango were converted to Christianity. However, in March 1861 sandalwood traders exposed the natives to measles, and Gordon spent most of his time caring for them. Two children of one of the island's chiefs had died in his care, and the chief thought that he had put a spell on them. He banded together a group of warriors and killed both George and his wife on 20.5. 1861.

*Ex Crompton*

### Via San Francisco

#### Double Rate:

Prepayment of 1/- for a ½ oz ship letter to the United States of America.

"SHIP/6"(cents) in black applied at San Francisco for the incoming ship letter fee to be paid by the recipient.



Sydney, New South Wales 20.9.1860 to San Francisco, United States of America

**Route - Private sailing ship:** Departed Sydney 22.9.1860 per clipper "Achilles" to San Francisco, arriving 3.12.1860. (74 days).