

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL STUDY GROUP

of the

British North America Philatelic Society

Newsletter No.17

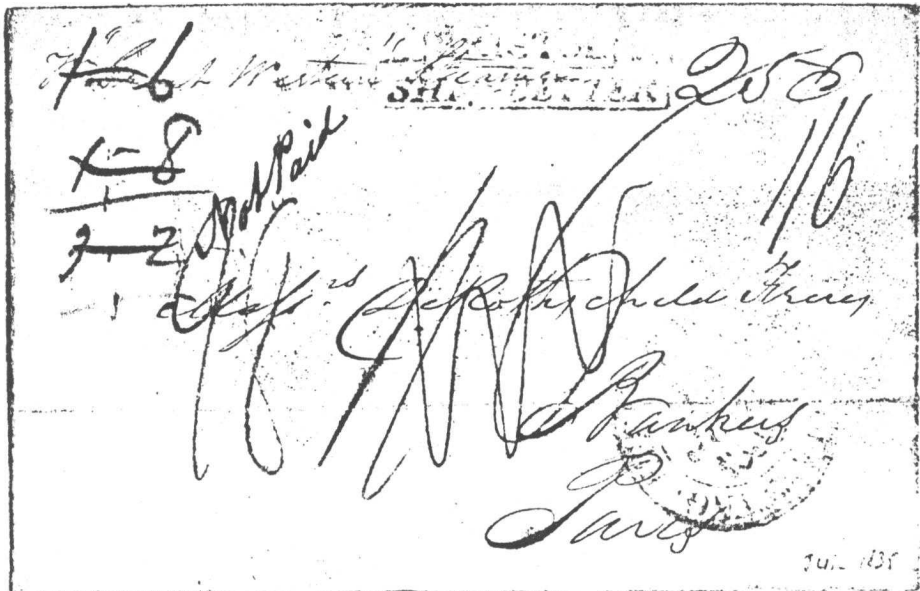
June 1990

THE FIRST FREIGHT MONEY

There has always been a question of whether Freight Money was collected before the 30 June 1838 advertisement in the New York *Albion* announcing that there would be a twenty-five cent charge per single sheet for letters received on board the *Great Western*. For a number of years I have had a cover dated 1838 with a '50' in manuscript at the upper right, which was carried by the *Great Western* from New York on her second return voyage. As the letter was charged at the triple rate on arrival at Bristol, I have taken the '50' to represent double freight money.

Now I have a second letter from the same voyage with 25 cents prepaid. This is a duplicate letter from the Bank of America in New York dated 23 June 1838 and was marked to go by the *Great Western*. It was entered as a ship letter at Bristol and forwarded through London on 10 July on its way to Paris, confirming that it was carried by the *Great Western*.

I believe that these two letters clearly establish the *Great Western's* second voyage from New York on 25 June 1838 to Bristol on 8 July as the first for which Freight Money was collected by the shipping agent.

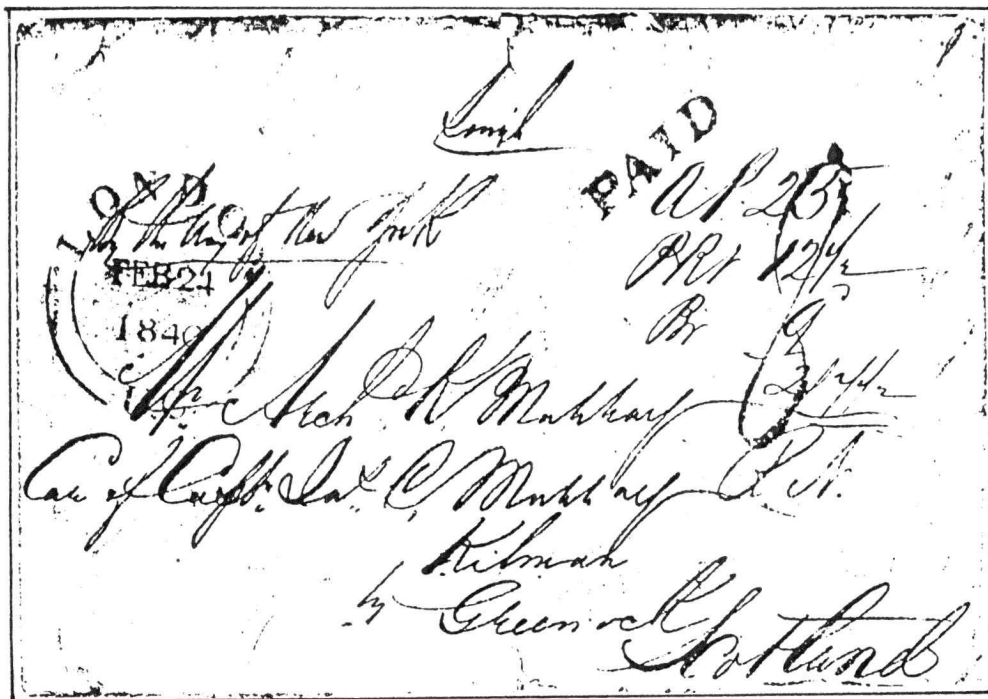


FREIGHT MONEY COVERS

Allan Steinhart has provided photocopies of four freight money covers of the same correspondence from London, U.C. to Scotland. He was outbid at an auction because the contents were of historical significance, however he obtained the photocopies for the record. The letters were all written during 1840 and were date-stamped at London, U.C. on 12 Feb-

ruary(?), 24 February, 17 November and 14 December. Three have 12½ cents sailing packet freight money, while that of 17 November is marked 'pr the British Queen'. All were prepaid and had the three items of postage listed:

AP [American Postage] 25
 Steam 25 or Pkt 25
 Br [Canadian Inland] 9.



As the three sailing packet letters are essentially the same in markings, only the 24 February one is shown, as it is the most distinct.

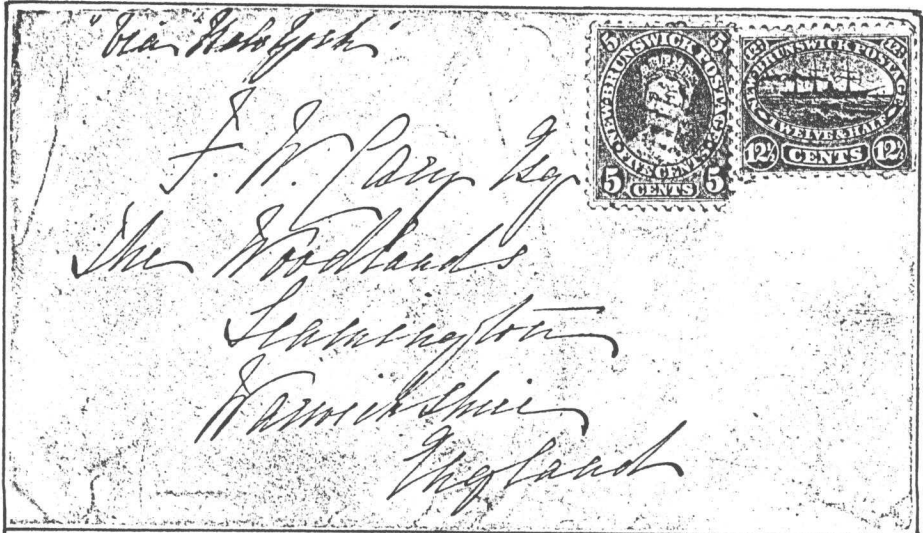
The *British Queen* letter (shown on the next page) is of interest on two counts. Although it was marked 'Single Sheet' and charged as such at London, U.C., it was rated 1/4 Stg. postage due as a double weight letter on arrival at Portsmouth. The other thing to note is that if it had been sent to Boston to connect with the Cunard *Britannia*, sailing on the same day (1 December) on her third return voyage as the *British Queen* left New York, it would have reached England a week earlier, as the former arrived at Liverpool on 14 December, while the latter reached Portsmouth on 22 December. However, the ocean postage had to be prepaid for the *British Queen*, while by Cunard the 1/- Stg. would have been collect. This might have been why both this letter and the following sailing packet letter of 14 December were sent with freight money prepaid.



POSTAGE ADDED

This cover from Eric Quinn was originally marked 'via Halifax' and only had a 12½ cent adhesive. It was backstamped at St. John, N.B. on 8 December 1865 and must have missed the mail for the Cunard *Asia* due to arrive at Halifax on the next day. As a result, a 5-cent adhesive was added and the direction changed to 'Via New York', where it connected with the Cunard *Scotia*, which sailed on 13 December and arrived at Liverpool on 23 December.

Canadian pmks:-

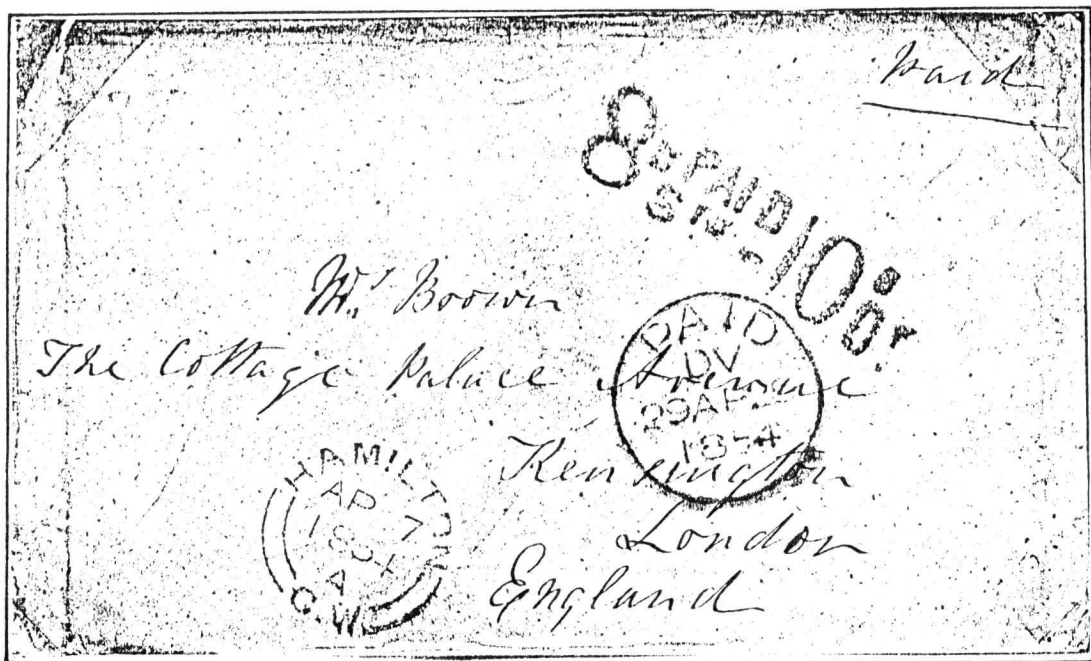


UNRECORDED RATE MARKINGS

Two years ago (TA News 7), I showed a previously unrecorded 2/- Stg. handstamp which had been used by the P.O. agent on board the Cunard *Africa* to show double rate postage due. This was designated H.5. Recently I bought a letter written by Maitland Philips & Co., New York dated 16 July 1867, which was mailed unpaid. It was carried by the Cunard *Java* from Boston on the following day. When being sorted on board, the letter was struck with '2/-' to show double weight postage due. While similar in design, the *Java* '2' is 13 mm. wide, while the *Africa* one was only 9 mm.

2/-
H.5 (var.)

While helping Art Leggett mount John Young's superb collection of early B.N.A. stampless covers at the recent BNAPEX at Regina, Allan Steinhart spotted the cover shown here with its previously unrecorded handstamp. I was allowed to photocopy it in order to add it to the record. The letter was prepaid at Hamilton, C.W. on 7 April 1854 with 10d Cy., the postage via Cunard from a U.S. port. It was carried by the *Canada* from Boston on 12 April and arrived at Liverpool on 24 April. It was not datestamped at London until five days later, which is very unusual. This handstamp will be D.30.



8^d PAID 10^d
STG - 10^d CY

D.30

SHIP LETTER HANDSTAMPS

Like many other BNAPERs, my wife and I were in London for the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black. As you will already have heard and read much about the exhibition at Alexandra Palace, I shall only add how much we were impressed by the setting and the superb transportation provided by British Post - to say nothing of the exhibits. On one occasion, my trip from Green Park to the Palace by tube and bus took a scant half hour! I was very happy to see that one of our group, Dick Winter, has some of his fine transatlantic covers in competition.

While in London, I spent half a day in the Postal Archives, which being located on a side street within walking distance of the Elephant & Castle, I only found after wandering around in the rain, asking various people for directions - most had no idea where it was. I had been planning this visit for several years, as I wanted to get photocopies of all the B.N.A. ship letter handstamps recorded in the Proof Books. Although I have had photocopies of the same taken from those obtained by Jim Kraemer in the early days of the Canadian Postal Museum, many are too indistinct for useful reproduction.

Since BNAPEX 87 at Charlottetown, it has been my aim to assemble as many ship letter handstamps as possible into a ready reference format. The following pages are the beginning of this project. They contain only those in the P.O. Proof Books. The Nova Scotia and New Brunswick ones are listed in *The Postal History of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick* by Jephcott, Greene and Young on pages 188-189, where nine of them are illustrated.

I do have photocopies of other handstamps of earlier date and/or manufacture from several friends, and others have been promised. I shall appreciate examples of any not recorded here, together with dates of use. As soon as I have enough to issue a supplement, this will appear in a future newsletter. Perhaps the day will come to have another TA Study Group Handbook.

In addition to the handstamps assembled on the next two pages, there were three others in the Proof Books. These are 1839 circular handstamps for Montreal and Quebec, and an 1840/41 for Prince Edward Island. These are shown below.



PrinceEdwardIsland
SHIP LETTER

NOVA SCOTIA & NEW BRUNSWICK SHIP LETTER HANDSTAMPS

These were issued in 1841, with the exception of Halifax (1844) and Parrsborough & St. Margaret's Bay (1848).

ANNAPOLIS·N·S
SHIP LETTER

ARICHAT·C·B
SHIP LETTER

DIGBY·N·S
SHIP LETTER



LIVERPOOL·N·S
SHIP LETTER

LUNENBURG·N·S
SHIP LETTER

PARRSBOROUGH
SHIP-LETTER

PICTOU·N·S
SHIP LETTER

SHIP LETTER
ST·MARGARETS·BAY·N·S

SHELBURN·N·S
SHIP LETTER

SYDNEY·C·B
SHIP LETTER

WINDSOR·N·S
SHIP LETTER

YARMOUTH·N·S
SHIP LETTER

BATHURST·N·B
SHIP LETTER

DALHOUSSE·N·B
SHIP LETTER

MIRAMICHI·N·B
SHIP LETTER

NEWCASTLE·N·B
SHIP LETTER

RICHIBUCTO·N·B
SHIP LETTER

ST·ANDREWS·N·B
SHIP LETTER

ST·JOHN·N·B
SHIP LETTER

ST·STEPHENS·N·B
SHIP LETTER

1851 NEWFOUNDLAND SHIP LETTER HANDSTAMPS

BAY BULLS
SHIP-LETTER

BELORAM
SHIP-LETTER

BONAVISTA
SHIP-LETTER

BRIGUS
SHIP-LETTER

BURIN
SHIP-LETTER

CARBONEAR
SHIP-LETTER

FERRYLAND
SHIP-LETTER

FOCO
SHIP-LETTER

GARNISH
SHIP-LETTER

GREENSPOND
SHIP-LETTER

HARBOR BRITAIN
SHIP-LETTER

HARBOR-GRACE
SHIP-LETTER

HEARTS CONTENT
SHIP-LETTER

HOLYROOD
SHIP-LETTER

ISLE OF VALEN
SHIP-LETTER

KINGS COVE
SHIP-LETTER

NEW-PERLICAN
SHIP-LETTER

ODERIN
SHIP-LETTER

PLACENTIA
SHIP-LETTER

ST-MARYS
SHIP-LETTER

SALMONIER
SHIP-LETTER

TREPASSEY
SHIP-LETTER

TRINITY
SHIP-LETTER

TWILLINGATE
SHIP-LETTER

SHIP-LETTER
NEWFOUNDLAND (1841)

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Ordinary mail, by which I receive my society publications, etc., usually takes some weeks to reach me. As a result, I was not aware that our good friend Leo La France had passed away when I was preparing the last newsletter. You will all have seen his obituary in the March/April *Topics*, so I can only extend a very belated note of sympathy to his friends and family.

So far this year, three new members have joined the group. They are:

G. Walter Beatty
Bernard Biales
Allan C. Crane.

Others have written to ask about the group as a result of publicity in some national publication.

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AIR MAIL

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