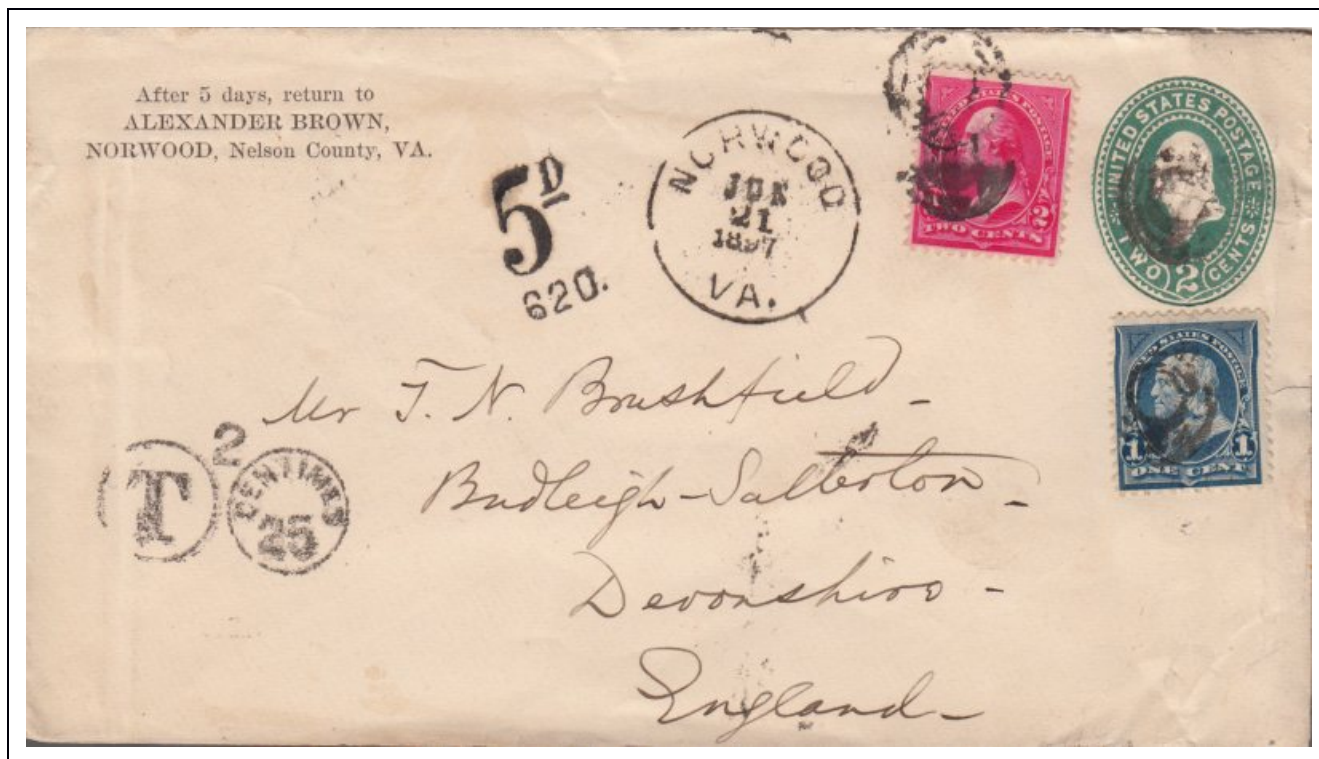


Postage Due on USA to UK Mails 1875-1907

The purpose of this exhibit is to demonstrate the handling of short-paid mail from the USA to UK at the major entry points during the period 1875 to 1907.



Letter paid 5¢ sent from Norwood, VA, via New York and Plymouth to Budleigh Salterton in 1897. New York Exchange Office taxed the letter 25 centimes as double rate and sent it on NGL's 'Trave' leaving 22nd June, arriving Plymouth 29th June. Mail bags for GB were unloaded at Plymouth where the local bag was opened, the letter marked '5^D / 620.' postage due for twice the deficient postage and sent on via Exeter to its destination.

Examples are shown of charge marks used at the principle exchange offices of Liverpool, London, Glasgow and Dublin (Queenstown, entry port for British mail ships) as well as at the principle cities of Plymouth (entry port for American and German mail ships), Edinburgh, Belfast and Manchester. A variety of different hand stamps was used initially, before later standardisation in London and the addition of post office codes elsewhere from the 1880's [Mackay pp17-18].

The US UPU letter rate for the selected period was 5¢ per ½oz. Examples are limited to no payment, part payment and overweight combinations of postage due. Initially the sending country indicated the actual amount paid in centimes. The UPU rules then changed, effective 1st April 1879, to require the despatching exchange office to indicate the amount of insufficiency expressed in centimes. The display shows items in approximately chronological order and by major city.

Research showing which ships carried the mail is provided to indicate the entry port which in turn dictated where mail bags were subsequently opened and charges applied. The bagging of mails for major towns was dictated by "distribution schemes" provided by the British Post Office to the US Exchange Offices and to those ships conducting on-board sorting between the USA and Britain.

References:

- Mackay, JA: Surcharged Mail of the British Isles, The Author, 1984
- Whitney, Dr JT: Collect British Postmarks, 5th Edn. The Author 1990
- The London Large F.B. and I.S. charge mark study, part 1, Postage Due Mail Study Group Journal #22 June 2002
- Wawrukiewicz, A & Beecher, H: US International Postal rates, 1872-1996, The Authors, CAMA Publishing Co, 1996
- Snelson, K: UK Tax Marks for International Mail 1875-2000 Usage & Listing; The Author, 2007
- Tabcart, C: Robertson Revisited, James Bendon, Ltd., Limassol, 1997
- Wilson HS: Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain & Ireland, Railway Philatelic Group, 1996
- New York Times archive <https://www.nytimes.com/search/> and The Times archive <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/archive/>

Unpaid letter sent from Vineyard Grove, Mass, via New York and Liverpool to London in September 1875



'T' and '15' applied in New York for 15 centimes paid [3¢].

In Liverpool: '3^D½' [Mackay 836 Liverpool]

Unpaid letter rate	5d
15 ctms credit	1½d
Net charge	3½d

GPU rules: on underpaid mail the despatching country to mark adjacent to the stamps the total value of stamps applied in LMU. The receiving country to calculate the amount due in its own currency.

On reverse:

'NEW YORK X SEP 8'

London Quartered circle: '20 9 N 1875'

[Image cropped full size]



Cunard Line's 'Russia'
 dep New York 8th Sep 1875
 arr Queenstown 17th Sep
 arr Liverpool 17th Sep

Mails for London were carried on to Liverpool when there was no time advantage by landing them at Queenstown for the TPO and H&K packet¹.

The London Quartered circle mark with the letter 'N' was applied by London Foreign Branch to short paid mail arriving in London².

1 Wilson, HS: Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain & Ireland, Railway Philatelic Group, 1996, Appendix 16
 2 Scott Archer, M: The Quartered Circle Bagging Stamps 1864-1900, London Postal History Group, Notebook No 98, Nov 1991

Short paid double rate letter sent from Bangor, ME, to Birmingham in October 1875



Paid 3x 3¢ = 9¢

'2' indicates double rate letter

'45' indicates 9¢ paid in LMU

In GB,
2x double rate =
2x 10¢ = 20¢,
less 9¢ paid = 11¢

'5½'
[equivalent of 11¢]
for 5½ pence due

Short paid double rate letter sent from Philadelphia to Liverpool in September 1878

Paid 2x 3¢ = 6¢

'30/2' indicates double rate letter with '30' indicating 6¢ paid in LMU

In GB,
2x double rate =
2x 10¢ = 20¢,
less 6¢ paid = 14¢

'7d'
[equivalent of 14¢]
for 7 pence due
[Mackay 879

Liverpool]

On reverse
'5A / LIVERPOOL / US
PACKET / 20-SP / 78'



From 1st July 1875 to 1st April 1879 the total that should have been paid was doubled and the total paid subtracted giving the total postage due.

LMU - Latin Monetary Units as directed by the UPU protocols: 1¢ = 5 ctms

Unpaid letter sent from the Caribbean area via New York and Plymouth
to Teignmouth in October 1875



'T' and '10' applied in New York for 10 centimes transit charge for unpaid letters from foreign countries per American Table C [GPU Regulation XIV 2].

'6d' charge for 1d (10 centimes) plus 2x 2½d GPU rate.

On reverse:

'TEIGNMOUTH / A /
OC25 / 75'

(image full size)



The Table C specified charges to be paid by GPU members in America. The 10 centimes charge applied to mail transiting the USA from countries such as Cuba and Bermuda¹.

The letter was carried on HAPAG Line's 'Hammonia II':
'Hammonia II' dep New York 14th Oct 1875
arr Plymouth 24th Oct

The 6d charge mark [W359m] was applied on the Plymouth and Bristol (Foreign Mails) TPO²

1 Snelson, K: UK Tax Marks for International Mail 1875-2000 Usage & Listing; The Author, 2007

2 Wilson HS: Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain & Ireland, Railway Philatelic Group, 1996

Short paid letter sent from New York via Plymouth
to York in November 1877



Binocular
'T / 15 CENTIMES'
applied in New York
for
15 centimes paid [3¢].

At Plymouth: 'd³₂'
[Mackay 950]

Unpaid letter rate 5d
15 ctms credit 1¹/₂d
Net charge 3¹/₂d

GPU rules:
on underpaid mail the
despatching country to
mark adjacent to the
stamps the total value
of stamps applied in
LMU. The receiving
country to calculate
the amount due in its
own currency.

On reverse:

'NEW YORK * F.D. */ NOV 15'

'B YORK NO 26 77'



Hamburg-America Line's 'Frisia'¹
dep New York 15th November 6:00pm
arr Plymouth 24th November 9:30pm 1877

The letter was mailed at the then current US domestic letter rate of 3¢
The UPU first step letter rate was 5¢ or 2¹/₂d per ¹/₂ oz

Short paid double rate letter sent from Philadelphia to Sheffield in 1881



Paid 5¢ for 10¢ double rate.

'T' and '25' centimes due applied at Philadelphia.

2x 5¢ deficiency = 10¢

In GB
'5d/,' postage due equivalent of 10¢

On reverse
'SHEFFIELD C6 JY 6 81'

Charge applied on Dublin TPO

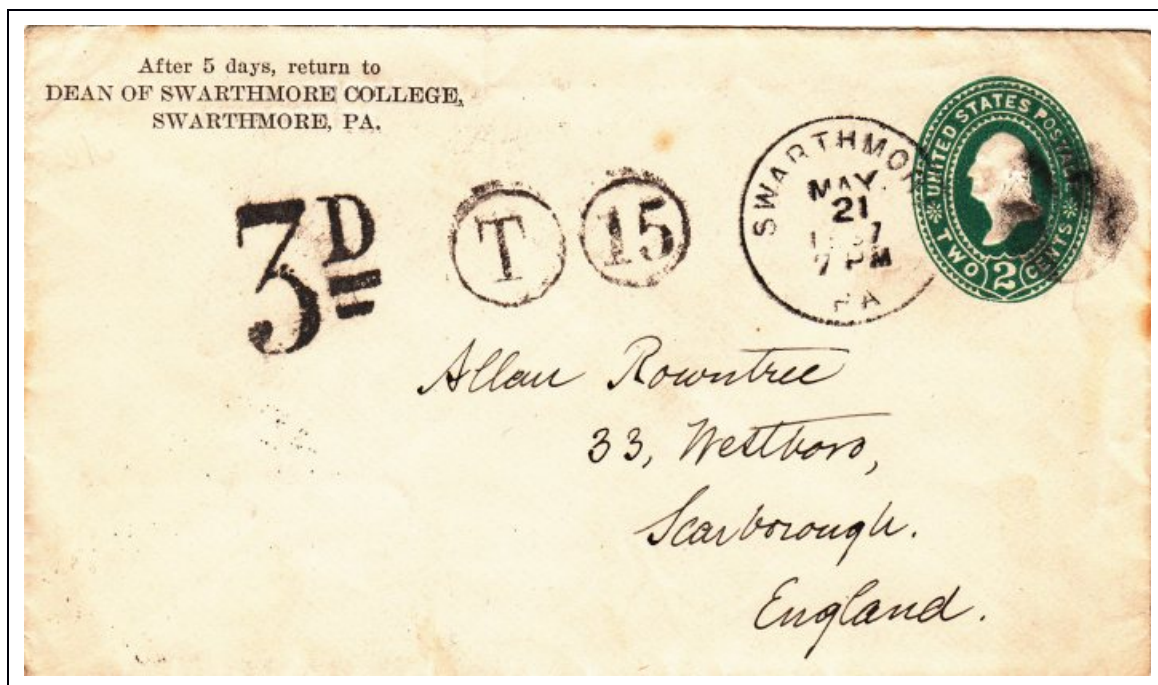
Domestic PSE short paid for foreign single rate sent from Swarthmore, PA, to Scarborough in May 1887

Paid 2¢ for 5¢ single UPU rate

'T/15' applied in Philadelphia

2x 3¢ deficiency = 6¢

In GB
'3D/=' postage due equivalent of 6¢



White Star's 'Britannic' departed New York 25th June for Belfast
Cunard Line's 'Servia' departed New York 21st May and arrived Queenstown 29th May

It is believed that these charge marks were applied on the Cork to Dublin TPO in transit from Queenstown to Kingstown for the Kingston to Holyhead (H&K) packet¹.

Short paid letter sent from Holly Springs to London in 1882



'N.Y. / T'

4¢ short of 2x 5¢
double UPU rate

Charged 4d
[2x 4¢ deficiency]
during transit
across Ireland.

On reverse:

'NEW YORK *F.D.*
JAN 18'

'PADDINGTON.W
/R 11/ JA27 82'

Short paid double letter sent from Norfolk, Va, to London in 1895

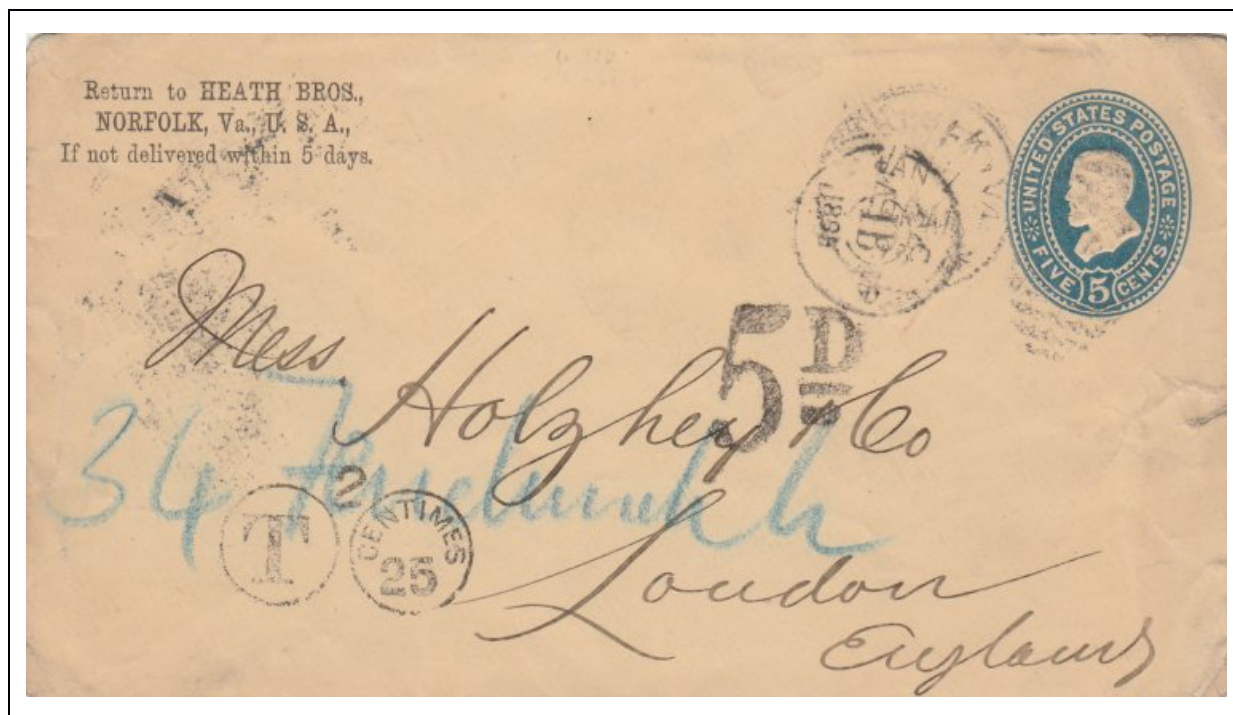
'T / 2 /
CENTIMES 25'

5¢ short of
2x 5¢ UPU
rate or 25
centimes

Charged 5d
[2x 5¢
deficiency]
in transit in
Ireland

On reverse:

'LONDON EC 9
JA 19 95 P'



Cunard	'Servia'	dep New York	18 th Jan	arr Queenstown	25 th Jan	1882
White Star	'Adriatic'	dep New York	9 th Jan	arr Queenstown	18 th Jan	1895

It is believed that these charge marks were applied on the Cork to Dublin TPO in transit from Queenstown to Kingstown for the Kingston to Holyhead (H&K) packet¹.

Letter paid at domestic rate sent from Philadelphia to Shropshire in 1894



'T / 15' of Philadelphia

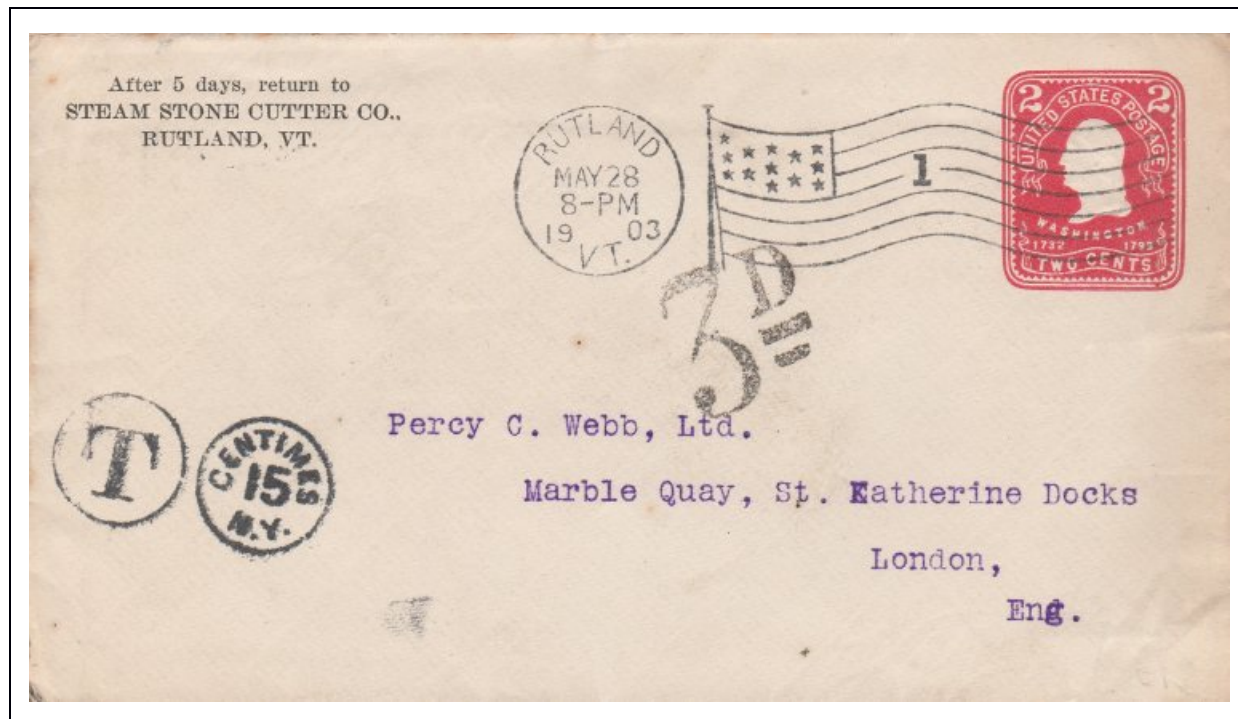
3¢ short of 5¢ UPU rate equivalent to 15 centimes.

Charged 3d [2x 3¢ deficiency] in transit in Ireland.

On reverse:

'JACKFIELD NO 5 94'

Letter paid at domestic rate sent from Rutland, VT, to London in 1903



'T / CENTIMES 15 N.Y.'

3¢ short of UPU 5¢ rate or 15 centimes

Charged 3d in transit across Ireland

On reverse:

'NEW YORK. N.Y FOR. B'CH MAY 29 1903'

'LONDON E JU 6 03'

Cunard 'Umbria' dep New York 27th Oct arr Queenstown 3rd Nov 1894
 Cunard 'Campania' dep New York 30th May arr Queenstown 5th Jun 1903

It is believed that these charge marks were applied on the Cork to Dublin TPO in transit from Queenstown to Kingstown for the Kingston to Holyhead (H&K) packet¹.

Short-paid triple rate letter sent from Bridgeport, Conn,
to Glasgow via Liverpool in May 1886



Paid 10¢ at 'BRIDGEPORT CONN. MAY 21 11PM 1886'
'NEW YORK MAY 22 5AM 86 / 38' on reverse

Binocular 'T / centimes 25' for 25 ctms underpaid (5¢); US UPU rate 5¢ per ½ oz.

Cunard Line 'Etruria'

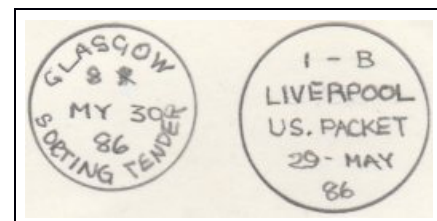
dep New York	22 nd May
arr Queenstown	29 th May
arr Liverpool	29 th May

At Liverpool:

'5^d' postage due for 2x shortage of 25 ctms = 2x 2½^d
[Mackay 855 Liverpool]¹

On reverse:

'1 - B LIVERPOOL US PACKET 29 - MAY 86' [Tab P12]²
'GLASGOW 8 * SORTING TENDER MY 30 86' [Wilson 721a]³



The Glasgow Sorting Tender operated at this time as part of the
London to Glasgow and Edinburgh Anglo-Scottish Night Mails.

The Times Monday May 31 1886, The Mails, p7

The Cunard Line steamer Etruria arrived at Queens-
town from New York at 3 25 a.m. on Saturday, landed 63
passengers and proceeded for Liverpool at 3 45 a.m.

All mails were landed at Liverpool.

¹ Mackay, JA: Surcharged Mail of the British Isles, The Author, 1984

² Tabart, C: Robertson Revisited, James Bendon, Ltd., Limassol, 1997

³ Wilson HS: Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain & Ireland, Railway Philatelic Group, 1996, p176-177

Short-paid letter sent from North Dakota to Derby
via New York and Liverpool in January 1893



Paid 4¢
(1¢ short)

'SHELDON N. DAK
JAN 4 1893'

'NEW YORK, NY
JAN 7 1893'
on reverse

'NY / T' ms '5'

Cunard Line
'Bothnia' [1]
New York 7th Jan
Q'town 16th Jan

'd1' applied at
Liverpool [2]

'DERBY JA 21
93' on reverse

Letter part-paid by a US Revenue stamp sent
from Boston to London in March 1899

Paid 4¢ plus 1¢
US Documentary
Revenue stamp
[Scott R163]

'BOSTON MAR 11
1893'

Boston 'T 5'
[5 ctms
underpaid]

'LONDON W.C
MR 21 99'
on reverse

'1^D / FB / A ' [3]

for 1d postage
due



[1] The 'Bothnia' suffered an onboard fire off Ireland while carrying 445 sacks of mail which were undamaged¹. She put off passengers at Queenstown and proceeded to Liverpool

[2] This Liverpool 'd1' mark is not listed in Mackay²

[3] Earliest known is March 1899³

Short-paid double rate letter sent from Agua, Ca,
to Shrewsbury in October 1889



Paid 6¢

'AGUA CAL / OCT 15 1889
/ SONOMA CO. CAL''20 / CTMS / T'
[San Francisco]Handled in GB by the
London Foreign Branch'4^D / F.B.' [1]20 ctms (4¢) underpaid
for 2x 5¢ per ½ oz UPU
rate

2x 4¢ => 4d postage due

Short-paid single letter sent from Auburn, Me, via New York
to London in April 1895

Paid 2¢
(US domestic)'AUBURN APR 1
7 AM 1895 ME'

At New York

'T / CENTIMES
15 N.Y.'

At London

'3^D / F.B.' [2]15 ctms (3¢)
underpaid for
US 5¢ UPU
letter rate2x 3¢ => 3d
postage due

US domestic letter rates:

effective 1 st July 1863	per ½ oz	3¢
effective 1 st October 1883	per ½ oz	2¢
effective 1 st July 1885	per oz	2¢

[1] Mackay 1170: Proofed July 1887 earliest known October 1889^{1, 2}

[2] Mackay 1162: Proofed July 1887 earliest known October 1888

Double rate covers paid single rate sent from
Chicago to London in 1892 and 1895



Paid 5¢
Chicago
December 19
1892
Taxe mark
'T 2/25'
In London:
'5^d,
[Mackay
not listed,
similar to
856 London]

Paid 5¢
Chicago April
12 1895
Taxe mark
'T 2/25'
In London:
'5^d/ F.B.'
[Mackay 1174
London]



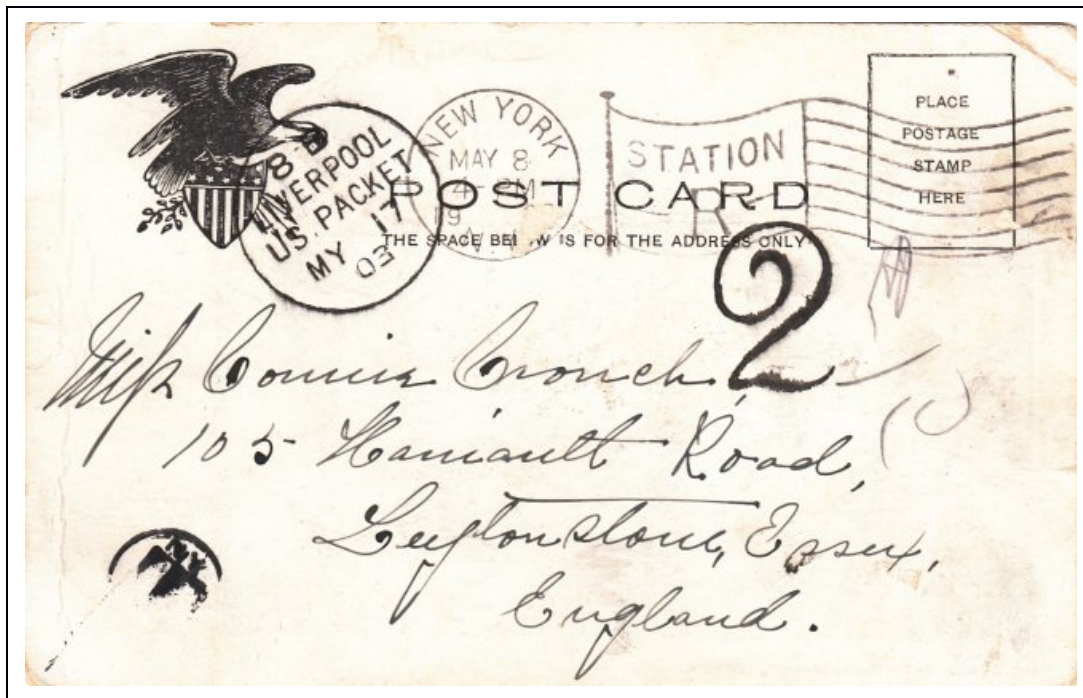
'T 2/25' indicates double rate and 25 centimes underpaid.
Charge due is twice deficiency: 2x 25=50 centimes. The British PO
considered 1d equivalent to 10 centimes. Thus postage due is 5d.¹

'5^d/ F.B.' first proofed 2nd July 1887²

1 Snelson, K: UK Taxe Marks for International Mail 1875-2000 Usage & Listing; The Author, 2007

2 The London Large F.B. and I.S. charge mark study, part 1, Postage Due Mail Study Group Journal #22 June 2002 page 7

Unpaid picture post card sent from New York to Leytonstone, Essex via Liverpool in May 1903



Unpaid
[2¢ UPU ppc rate]

'NEW YORK MAY 8 4pm
1903 N.Y. / STATION R'
1903'

New York Taxe mark

Cunard 'Umbria'
dep New York 9th May
arr L'pool 17th May ^[1]

'8 B LIVERPOOL US
PACKET MY 17 03'
[Rob P12 ^{2]}

Liverpool '2' postage
due equivalent to
2x 2¢
[Mackay 474
Liverpool ^{3]}

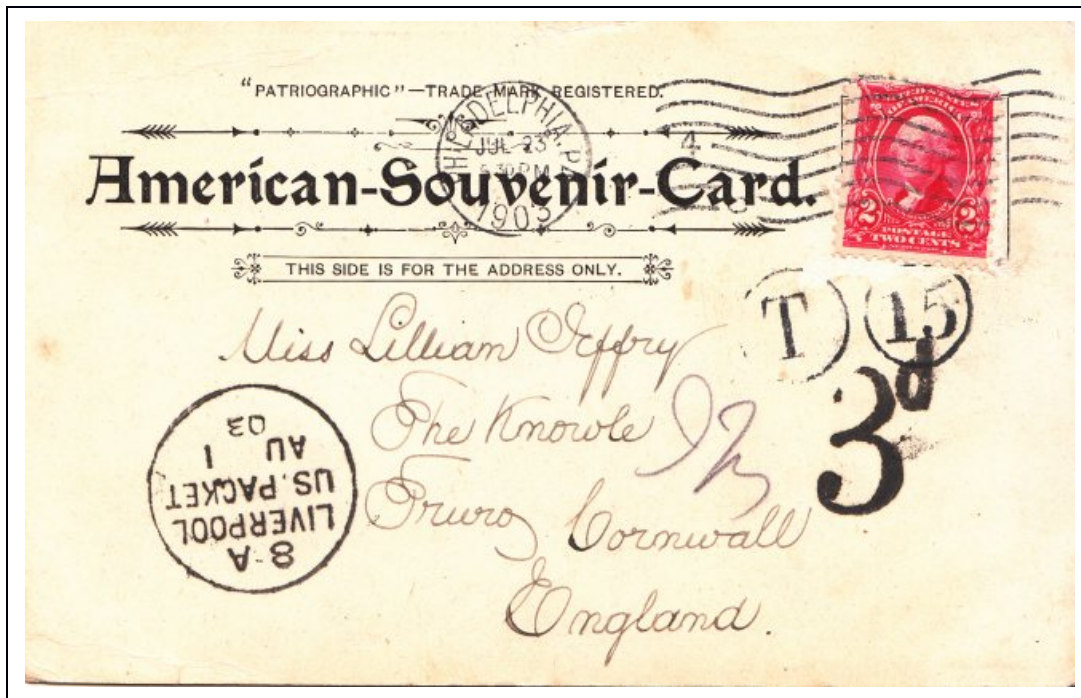


PPC full size

UPU rules required post cards to bear the words "Carte Postale" and "Universal Postal Union" on the address side, or from 1897, "Post Card".

[1] New York Times May 9, 1903, Marine Intelligence; The Times May 18, 1903, The Mails
[2] Rob: Tabcart, C: Robertson Revisited, James Bendon, Ltd., Limassol, 1997
[3] Mackay, JA: Surcharged Mail of the British Isles, The Author, 1984

Illustrated private postcard sent from Philadelphia to Truro treated as a letter in August 1903



Paid 2¢
UPU post card rate

'PHILADELPHIA PA
JUL 23 530 pm 1903'

Philadelphia 'T' '15'
indicating 15 ctms or
3¢ deficiency

Cunard 'Campania'
dep New York 25th Jul
arr Liverpool 1st Aug

'8 A LIVERPOOL US
PACKET AU 1 03'
[Rob P12]

Liverpool '3^d' due
equivalent to 2x 3¢
[Mackay 818
Liverpool]



PPC full size

UPU rules required post cards to bear the words "Carte Postale" and "Universal Postal Union" on the address side, or from 1897, "Post Card". Non-conforming cards were charged as underpaid letters¹.

Mackay, JA: Surcharged Mail of the British Isles, The Author, 1984

Short-paid letters sent from Boston to Dunfermline via New York and Queenstown on board Cunard's 'Servia' in October 1892



Short paid 2¢
Reverse:
'BOSTON FD OCT
27 12M 92'

'T' / '15'

Cunard 'Servia'
dep New York ^[1]
29th Oct
arr Queenstown
6th Nov

'3^d.'
[Mackay 945 ^[2]
Glasgow]

Reverse:
'GLASGOW 150 /
14 A / NO 7 92'

Short-paid letter sent from Seattle to Orkney via New York and Plymouth on board America Line's 'Philadelphia' in December 1903

Paid 2¢ US inland
letter rate
'SEATTLE, WASH. 1903 /
DEC 26 / 1 PM / 2c'

At New York taxed
'T / CENTIMES
15 N.Y.'

American Line
'Philadelphia'
dep New York 2nd Jan ^[3]
arr Plymouth 10th Jan

On reaching Edinburgh
'3^d. / EH.'
[Mackay 1056 E'burgh]

2x 15 ctms = 30 ctms
=> 3d postage due

On reverse:
'KIRKWALL / 8 30 PM
JA 12 04'



Plymouth mails went north by rail via Bristol and Birmingham to join the London to Glasgow & Edinburgh mail train. From Queenstown, Scottish mail went via Dublin and Belfast to Glasgow.

[1] New York Times 29 Oct 92 & 7 Nov 92

[2] Mackay, JA: Surcharged Mail of the British Isles, The Author, 1984

[3] New York Times 2nd January 1904 & The Times 11th January 1904, The Mails, page 6

Paid letter from Detroit charged double on arrival in Belfast sent via New York and Queenstown on board White Star's 'Teutonic' in February 1893



Paid 5¢ UPU
 ½oz rate
 'DETROIT MICH
 FEB 6 4-PM
 1893'
 On reverse:
 'NEW YORK NY
 FEB 7 1893'
 White Star ^[1]
 'Teutonic'
 dep NY 8 Feb
 arr QT 15 Feb
 'MORE TO PAY
 ABOVE - OZ
 62' ^[2]
 [62= Belfast]
 '5d' [not in
 Mackay]

Short-paid letter sent from Willimansett, Mass, via New York and Queenstown to Manchester in September 1904

Domestic 2¢
 rate postal
 stationery

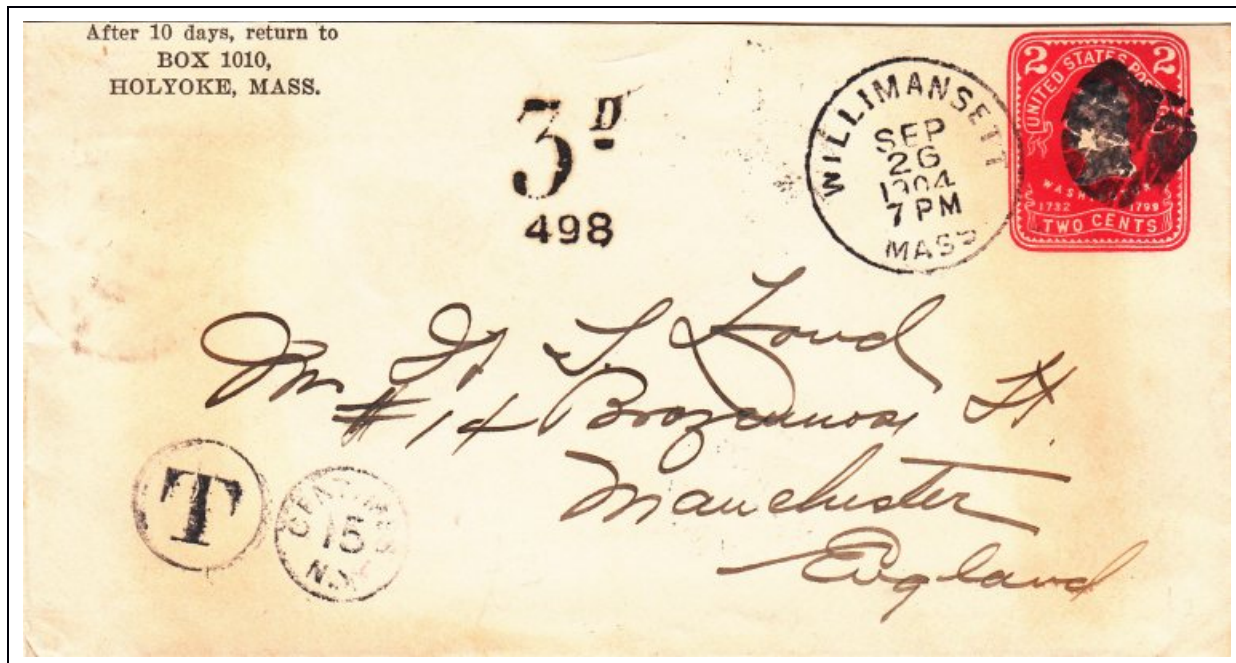
'WILLMANSETT
 MASS SEP 26
 1904 7PM'

On reverse:
 'NEW YORK NY
 FOR BCH 1904
 SEP 27 7-AM'

'T / CENTIMES
 15 N.Y.'

White Star ^[3]
 'Teutonic'
 dep NY 28 Sep
 arr QT 5 Oct

On reverse:
 'MANCHESTER
 OC 5 04'



US - GB Letter rate: 5¢ per ½oz 1st July 1875 to 30th September 1907^[5]

References

- [1] New York Times 8 Feb 1903 and The Times 15 Feb 1903
- [2] Whitney, Dr JT: Collect British Postmarks, 5th Edn. The Author 1990
- [3] New York Times 26 Sep 1904 and The Times 6 Oct 1904
- [4] Whitney, op cit
- [5] Wawrukiewicz, A & Beecher, H: US International Postal rates, 1872-1996, The Authors, CAMA Publishing Co, 1996

'3d 498' ^[4]
 498 =
 Manchester
 [not shown in
 Mackay]