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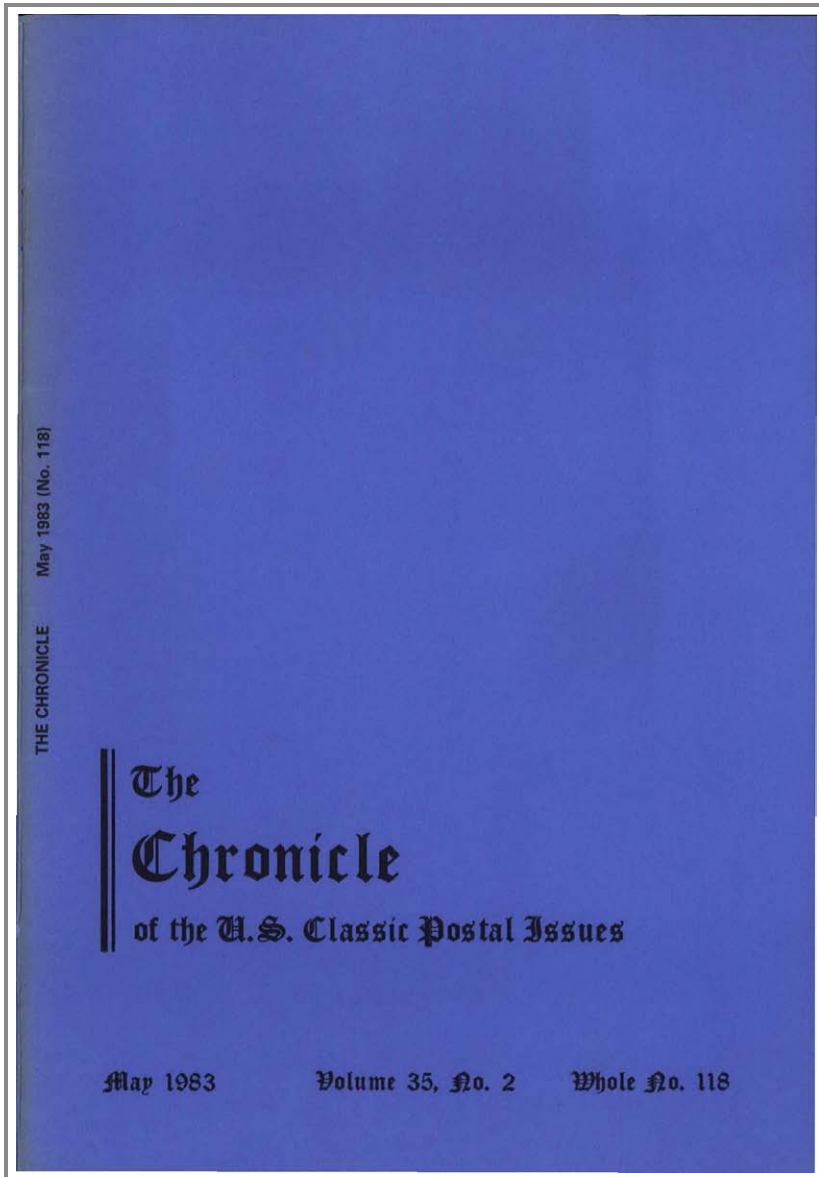


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to Sir Samuel Cunard to tell him that "the Postmaster General has decided therefore on trying the experiment for six months of leaving the Officer in charge of Mails on board the Packet to determine, after consultation with the Commander of the Packet and with the Postmaster of Queenstown, whether the Liverpool portion of the Mail shall be landed at Queenstown or carried on by the Packet. . . . The Commander will, of course, judge from the state of the weather and other circumstances, how long a time the Packet will probably occupy in the voyage from Queenstown to Liverpool." There is some evidence to show that this practice was, in fact, continued until the spring of 1869 when, shortly after the Mail Officers and their staff were withdrawn, the Cunard Company was informed, on March 5 1869, that in future the decision would be entirely in the hands of the Postmaster at Queenstown in consultation with the Cunard Company's Agent at that port.³

The "Liverpool portion of the Mail" did not, of course, mean only letters addressed to that city but consisted of all mail which was going to be distributed through the Liverpool Post Office. Details of the area covered have not been found, but it is known that it included Manchester and the Scottish mails arriving in England by this route. There is not much doubt that expeditious delivery ranked high in the deliberations of the Postmaster General and his staff.

3. Ibid. : Post 48 296.

THE CUNARD LINE'S MAIL PACKETS ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC 1860-1869

WALTER HUBBARD

Abbreviations : NY New York : B Boston : QT Queenstown : LP Liverpool : F/V or L/V first or last voyage : F/VP or L/VP first or last voyage as a packet : PD planned date of departure : (M) carried the British mails from Liverpool and Queenstown to New York or Boston.

A figure in brackets after a departure date indicates a late sailing.

From 4 January 1860 to 1 January 1868
from Boston via Halifax to Queenstown and Liverpool
from New York via Queenstown to Liverpool

| 1860 PD LP QT | ARR NY or B | PACKET | PD NY or B | ARR QT or LP | NOTES |
|------------------|--------------|---------|------------|-----------------|-------|
| 10 Dec 11 | 22 Dec(M) NY | ASIA | 4 Jan(5) | LP 16 Jan(0355) | |
| 17 Dec 18 | 2 Jan(M) B | CANADA | 11 Jan | 22 Jan | |
| 24 Dec 25 | 8 Jan(M) NY | ARABIA | 18 Jan | 29 Jan(1930) | |
| 31 Dec 1 Jan | 16 Jan(M) B | EUROPA | 25 Jan | 4 Feb | |
| 7 Jan 8 | 23 do(M) NY | AFRICA | 1 Feb | 12 Feb | |
| 14 Jan 15 | 4 Feb(M) B | AMERICA | 8 Feb | 20 Feb(1555) | |
| 21 Jan 22 | 5 Feb(M) NY | ASIA | 15 Feb | LP 27 Feb(0205) | |
| 28 Jan 29 | 15 Feb(M) B | CANADA | 22 Feb | 4 Mar(0100) | |
| 4 Feb 5 | 18 Feb(M) NY | ARABIA | 29 Feb | LP 12 Mar(1825) | |
| 11 Feb 12 | 24 Feb(M) B | EUROPA | 7 Mar | 19 Mar | |
| 18 Feb 19 | 4 Mar(M) NY | AFRICA | 14 Mar | LP 26 Mar | |
| 25 Feb 26 | 13 Mar(M) B | AMERICA | 21 Mar | 1 Apr(1200) | |
| 3 Mar 4 | 16 Mar(M) NY | ASIA | 28 Mar | LP 8 Apr(1240) | |
| 10 Mar 11 | 25 Mar(M) B | CANADA | 4 Apr | 14 Apr(2210) | |
| 17 Mar 18 | 30 Mar(M) NY | ARABIA | 11 Apr | LP 22 Apr(late) | |
| 24 Mar 25 | 9 Apr(M) B | NIAGARA | 18 Apr | 29 Apr(0735) | |
| 31 Mar 1 Apr | 12 Apr(M) NY | PERSIA | 25 Apr | 4 May(1730) | |
| 7 Apr 8 | 23 Apr(M) B | AMERICA | 2 May | 14 May(1425) | |
| 14 Apr 15 | 27 Apr(M) NY | AFRICA | 9 May | 19 May(1320) | |
| 21 Apr 22 | 4 May(M) B | CANADA | 16 May | 27 May(1320) | |
| 28 Apr 29 | 11 May(M) NY | ASIA | 23 May | 2 Jun(1700) | |
| 5 May 6 | 17 May(M) B | EUROPA | 30 May | 9 Jun(2040) | |

1860 (cont.)

| PD LP QT | ARR NY or B | PACKET | PD NY or B | ARR QT or LP | NOTES |
|--------------|--------------|---------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| 12 May 13 | 23 May(M) NY | PERSIA | 6 Jun | 15 Jun(0940) | |
| 19 May 20 | 29 May(M) B | ARABIA | 13 Jun | 22 Jun(1930) | |
| 26 May 27 | 8 Jun(M) NY | AFRICA | 20 Jun | 1 Jul(0725) | |
| 2 Jun 3 | 15 Jun(M) B | NIAGARA | 27 Jun | 7 Jul(2320) | |
| 9 Jun 10 | 21 Jun(M) NY | ASIA | 4 Jul | 14 Jul(1920) | |
| 16 Jun 17 | 28 Jun(M) B | EUROPA | 11 Jul | 21 Jul | |
| 23 Jun 24 | 5 Jul(M) NY | PERSIA | 18 Jul | 27 Jul(1230) | 8½ days f. NY |
| 30 Jun 1 Jul | 12 Jul(M) B | ARABIA | 25 Jul | 3 Aug(1620) | |
| 7 Jul 8 | 20 Jul(M) NY | AFRICA | 1 Aug | 11 Aug(1300) | |
| 14 Jul 15 | 27 Jul(M) B | CANADA | 8 Aug | 20 Aug | note 1 |
| 21 Jul 22 | 2 Aug(M) NY | ASIA | 15 Aug | 25 Aug(1820) | |
| 28 Jul 29 | 9 Aug(M) B | EUROPA | 22 Aug | 1 Sep(1750) | |
| 4 Aug 5 | 15 Aug(M) NY | PERSIA | 29 Aug | 7 Sep(1000) | |
| 11 Aug 12 | 22 Aug(M) B | ARABIA | 5 Sep | 14 Sep | |
| 18 Aug 19 | 31 Aug(M) NY | AFRICA | 12 Sep | 23 Sep(1400) | |
| 25 Aug 26 | 8 Sep(M) B | AMERICA | 19 Sep | 30 Sep(0310) | |
| 1 Sep 2 | 13 Sep(M) NY | ASIA | 26 Sep | 6 Oct | |
| 8 Sep 9 | 21 Sep(M) B | EUROPA | 3 Oct | 13 Oct(2100) | |
| 15 Sep 16 | 27 Sep(M) NY | PERSIA | 10 Oct | 19 Oct(1845) | |
| 22 Sep 23 | 5 Oct(M) B | CANADA | 17 Oct | 27 Oct(1635) | |
| 29 Sep 30 | 12 Oct(M) NY | AFRICA | 24 Oct | 4 Nov(1320) | |
| 6 Oct 7 | 17 Oct(M) B | ARABIA | 31 Oct | 11 Nov(0720) | |
| 13 Oct 14 | 28 Oct(M) NY | ASIA | 7 Nov | 18 Nov(1945) | |
| 20 Oct 21 | 4 Nov(M) B | EUROPA | 14 Nov | 25 Nov(1245) | |
| 27 Oct 28 | 6 Nov(M) NY | PERSIA | 21 Nov | 1 Dec(1900) | |
| 3 Nov 4 | 15 Nov(M) B | CANADA | 28 Nov | 9 Dec(0050) | |
| 10 Nov 11 | 23 Nov(M) NY | AFRICA | 5 Dec | 16 Dec(2000) | |
| 17 Nov 18 | 29 Nov(M) B | ARABIA | 12 Dec | 22 Dec(1630) | |
| 24 Nov 25 | 7 Dec(M) NY | ASIA | 19 Dec | 1 Jan(0730) | |
| 1 Dec 2 | 15 Dec(M) B | EUROPA | 26 Dec | 6 Jan(1440) | |

1861

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| 8 Dec 9 | 20 Dec(M) NY | PERSIA | 2 Jan | 12 Jan | |
| 15 Dec 16 | 26 Dec(M) B | CANADA | 9 Jan | 20 Jan(2030) | |
| 22 Dec 23 | 3 Jan(M) NY | AUSTRALASIAN | 16 Jan | 26 Jan(1530) | F/VP |
| 29 Dec 30 | 13 Jan(M) B | AMERICA | 23 Jan | 4 Feb(1450) | |
| 5 Jan 6 | 19 Jan(M) NY | ASIA | 30 Jan | 10 Feb(0615) | |
| 12 Jan 13 | 26 Jan(M) B | NIAGARA | 6 Feb | 17 Feb(0500) | |
| 19 Jan 20 | 1 Feb(M) NY | ARABIA | 13 Feb | 23 Feb(2000) | |
| 26 Jan 27 | 10 Feb(M) B | CANADA | 20 Feb | 2 Mar(0400) | |
| 2 Feb 3 | 17 Feb(M) NY | AFRICA | 27 Feb | 10 Mar(0415) | |
| 9 Feb 10 | 13 Feb(M) B | AMERICA | 6 Mar | 16 Mar(2300) | |
| 16 Feb 17 | — | AUSTRALASIAN | | | note 2 |
| | NY | ADRIATIC | 13 Mar | 23 Mar(0300) | note 3 |
| 23 Feb 24 | 11 Mar(M) B | NIAGARA | 20 Mar | 2 Apr(1720) | |

1. CANADA was reported as leaving Halifax on 12 August — she may have sailed a day late from Boston.

2. AUSTRALASIAN had mechanical trouble and had to return to Queenstown on 3 March.

3. ADRIATIC of the Galway Line was under charter to the Cunard Company for this voyage (see *Chronicle* 9:61)

(To be continued)