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# Table Of Contents

items marked with \* cannot be viewed as an individual PDF document

[Click here to view the entire Volume: 52 No: 3 Chronicle: 187](#)

	<u>Starting Page</u>
<a href="#">Front Cover</a> (1 page)	Front Cover
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Jack E. Molesworth, Inc.	Inside Front Cover
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Shreves Philatelic Galleries, Inc.	157
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Spink	158
<a href="#">Masthead</a> (1 page)	159
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Victor B. Krievins	160
<a href="#">Table of Contents</a> (1 page)	161
Prestamp and Stampless Period	
<a href="#">A Conjunction of Features, and an Unusual Reversion</a> (5 pages) <i>Frank Mandel</i>	163
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.	168
1851-61 Period	
<a href="#">Additional Canceled Postmarks: Part II</a> (7 pages) <i>Hubert C. Skinner</i>	169
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Museum of United States Essays and Proofs	175
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Matthew Bennett Inc.	176
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions	177
1861-1869 Period	
<a href="#">Civil War Patriotic Covers</a> (6 pages) <i>James W. Milgram M.D.</i>	178
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Brad Sheff	183
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Charles G. Firby	184
1861-1869 Period	
<a href="#">The 1867-68 Grills: What We Know and What We Don't Know</a> (6 pages) <i>Michael C. McClung</i>	185
Bank Note Period	
<a href="#">Take Me to the Fair: Postal Markings on Mail Addressed to Persons at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition, New Orleans, Louisiana 1884-1885</a> (4 pages) <i>David C. Hufford</i>	191
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Stephen T. Taylor	193
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Guido Craveri	195
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Nutmeg Stamp Sales, Inc.	196
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Andrew Levitt, Inc.	197
Special Printings 1875-84	
<a href="#">Some Data on Continental Bank Note Company Ribbed Paper Stamps</a> (5 pages) <i>William E. Mooz</i>	198
<a href="#">Some Context for the 1875 Special Printing Program</a> (1 page) <i>William E. Mooz</i>	202
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society	203
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society	204
Officials	
<a href="#">Usage of Official Stamps in Washington, D.C. 1873-1874</a> (11 pages) <i>Alan C. Campbell</i>	205
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: United States Stamp Society	215
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Edelman's Loan Office	216
Foreign Mails	
<a href="#">Unusual Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP Co.) Cover</a> (5 pages) <i>Richard F. Winter</i>	217
<a href="#">Book Review: "Early Routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, 1842-1879"</a> (3 pages) <i>Richard F. Winter</i>	221
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Leonard H. Hartmann	223
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society	224
The Cover Corner	
<a href="#">Additional Answer to Problem Cover in Issue 183</a> (1 page) <i>Ray W. Carlin</i>	225

<a href="#">Additional Answer to Problem Cover in Issue 185</a> (3 pages) <i>Ray W. Carlin</i>	225
<a href="#">Answers to Problem Covers in Issue 186</a> (1 page) <i>Ray W. Carlin</i>	228
<a href="#">More Answers to the U.S. "Steamboat" Cover Parade</a> (6 pages) <i>Ray W. Carlin</i>	228
<a href="#">Problem Cover for This Issue</a> (1 page) <i>Ray W. Carlin</i>	234
<a href="#">Index to Advertisers</a> (1 page)	235
<a href="#">Classified</a> (1 page)	235
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Ivy & Mader Philatelic Auctions, Inc.	236
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: James E. Lee	Inside Back Cover
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.	Back Cover

### ADDITIONAL ANSWER TO PROBLEM COVER IN ISSUE 183

Figure 1 is the 1851 cover from Philadelphia to Jerusalem, Syria, prepaid 61¢. In *Chronicle* 186, Bob Stets confirmed the 61¢ rate as correct, but we had no explanation about the meaning of the red manuscript “50.” Now Bob has written with the answer:

In the 1851 period there were only a few countries to which postage could be paid to final destination. Mail often was paid only to the seaport or border of the country and the addressee paid the additional postage to destination. I believe the “50” is the charge for carrying the letter from Beyrouth (Syria) to Jerusalem. Depending on whether it went by Syrian carriage or German courier, it could be 50 centimes or 50 pfennige.

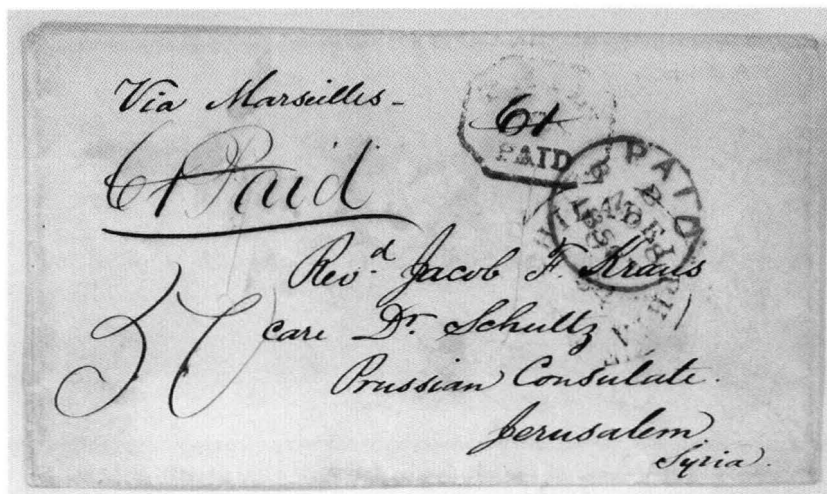


Figure 1. 1851 cover from Philadelphia to Jerusalem

### ADDITIONAL ANSWER TO PROBLEM COVER IN ISSUE 185

An 1824 folded letter, Figure 2, from London to Sandwich, Upper Canada was forwarded twice by agents in New York and in Detroit. Two of the three manuscript markings, all in red, have been identified - the “6” (cents) as the incoming ship letter fee for letters delivered at the port of arrival (to the New York forwarding agent); the “50” (cents) as the U.S. postage to Detroit for a double letter over 400 miles (2 sheets x 25 = 50¢). The remaining question was to explain the “13” and its meaning.

Route Agents Bernard Biales and Don Johnstone have both identified the marking not as a numeral, but as a capital letter “B,” an abbreviation for “Boat.” Don writes:

The “B” was applied in Albany to incoming mail from boats, usually steamboats. The marking is well known to students of Hudson River and Lake Champlain steamboat mail. An identical example, also in 1824, is illustrated in plate 6 of the *W.W.L. Peltz Collection of Albany Postal History*, by Kenneth de Lisle, published in 1969 by the Albany Institute of Art. It would appear the letter did not enter the U.S. mails in New York, but was given to a north bound Hudson River boat, and entered the mails in Albany.

It then traveled to the Detroit forwarding agent who arranged for it to be collected by the addressee in Sandwich.



Figure 2. 1824 folded letter from London to Sandwich, Upper Canada

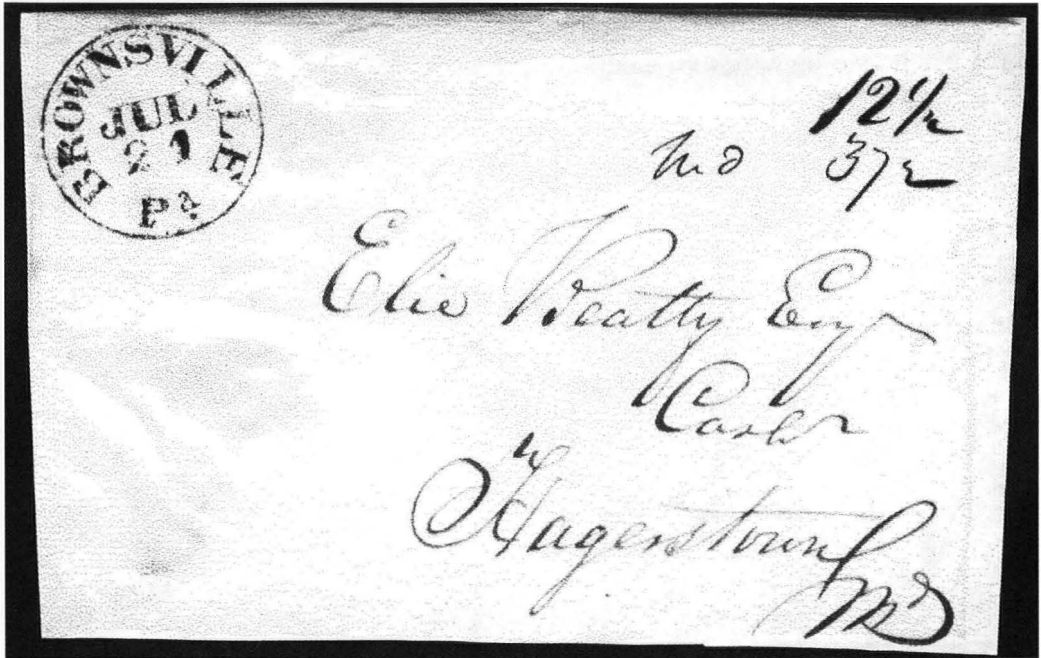


Figure 3. 1834 cover from Brownsville, Pa. to Hagerstown, MD

Figure 4. New Chart of Rates for Ship and Steamboat Letters, 1789 to 1883

Approval Date	Effective Date	Rate At Port (AP) each	Single Rate Beyond Port (BP) 2¢ each plus reg. post	Remarks
Mar. 2, 1799	May 1, 1799	6¢ each	10¢ to 27¢	(BP) 2¢ each plus regular postage rates
Dec. 23, 1814	Feb. 1, 1815	9¢ each	14¢ to 39½¢	(AP) & (BP) War of 1812 - 50% increase
Feb. 1, 1816	Mar. 31, 1816	6¢ each	10¢ to 27¢	(AP) & (BP) 50% increase repealed
April 9, 1816	May 1, 1816	6¢ each	8¢ to 27¢	(BP) 2¢ each plus new regular postage rates
Mar. 3, 1845	July 1, 1845	"	7¢ or 12¢	(BP) 7¢ not over 300 miles; 12¢ over 300 miles
Mar. 3, 1847	? ? , 1847	-	42¢	(BP) added 42¢ to/from U.S. Pacific Coast
Aug. 14, 1848	? ? , 1848	-	14½¢	(BP) added 14½¢ within California
Mar. 3, 1851	June 30, 1851	6¢ each	If prepaid - 5¢ or 8¢	(BP) 5¢ / 7¢ - not over 3000 miles
"	"	6¢ each	Not prepaid - 7¢ or 12¢	(BP) 8¢ / 12¢ - over 3000 miles
Mar. 3, 1855 *	April 1, 1855	6¢ each	5¢ or 12¢	(BP) 5¢ not over 3000 miles; 12¢ over 3000 miles
Feb. 27, 1861	May 1, 1861	5¢ each	5¢ or 12¢	(AP) Reduced to 5¢; (BP) added 12¢ over Rocky Mt.
Mar. 3, 1863	June 30, 1863	4¢	6¢	(AP) & (BP) Two times regular rates
Mar. 3, 1883	Oct. 1, 1883	4¢	4¢	(AP) & (BP) Two times new regular rates

\* This Act required prepayment of domestic postage. Subsequent penalty rates for short paid Steamboat letters have not been developed.