

Bermuda Postal History: Forerunners to the UPU

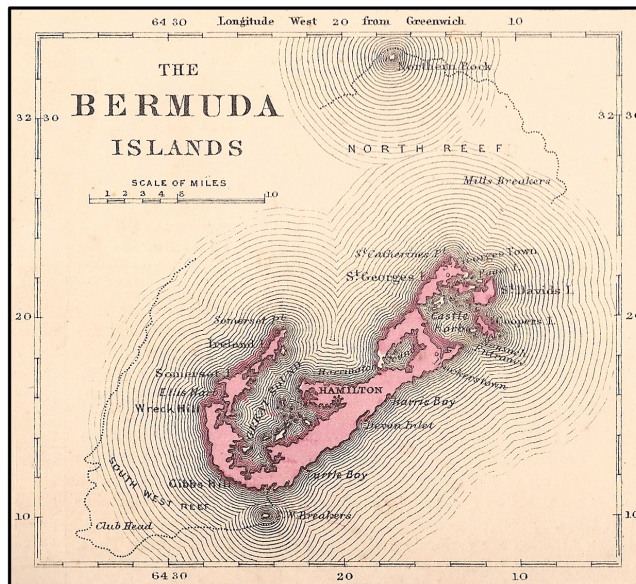
Presented by

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The Royal Philatelic Society, London

28 April 2016



The display follows this outline:

Introduction

I. Forerunner period

II. Internal Mail

5d. rate period

1d. rate period

pre-adhesive

adhesive

III. Military Mail

War of 1812

Civil War Blockade

Concessionary Rates

IV. Ship Letters

Ship Letters

Forwarding Agents

V A. Packet Letters: GPO/Admiralty, 7 routes

V B. Packet Letters: Cunard: 5 routes

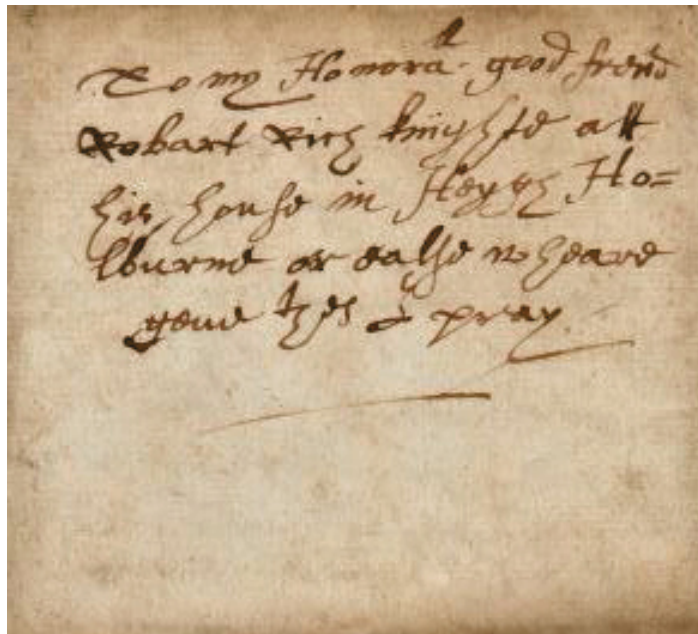
V C. Packet Letters: RMSP: 2 contracts, 7 routes

V D. Packet Letters: Combination of Carriers:
6 options

I. Forerunner period

1617 Bermuda to England

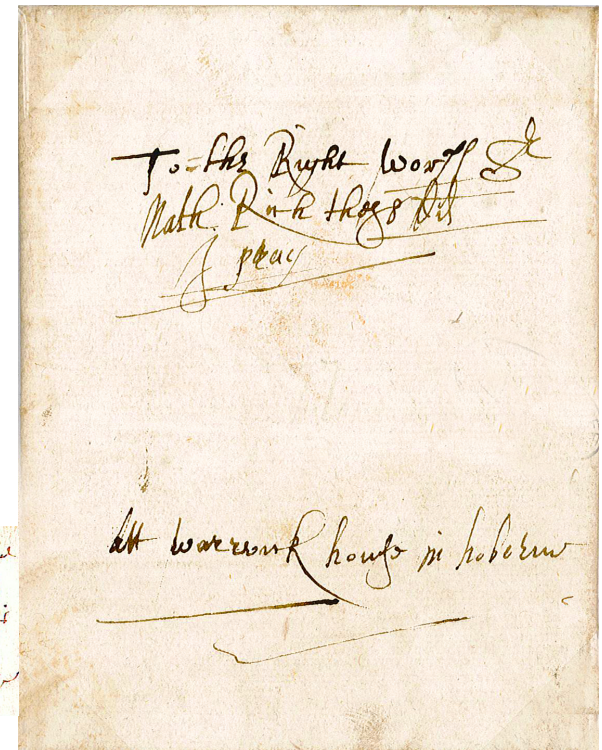
The **earliest known** Bermuda cover in private hands



1628 Bermuda to England

Carried by the **Lydia**

John Hamner set to sea
in the ship of Captain Hall by
the ship Lydia. Departed
Havens 18th day 1628. Received
at London on Sunday the
28 of April. 1629. Being
sent me from Dartmouth to the
Lydia galley



I. Forerunner period

One of three recorded covers from Bermuda into the
American Colonial Post, 1771



Only known Bermuda cover

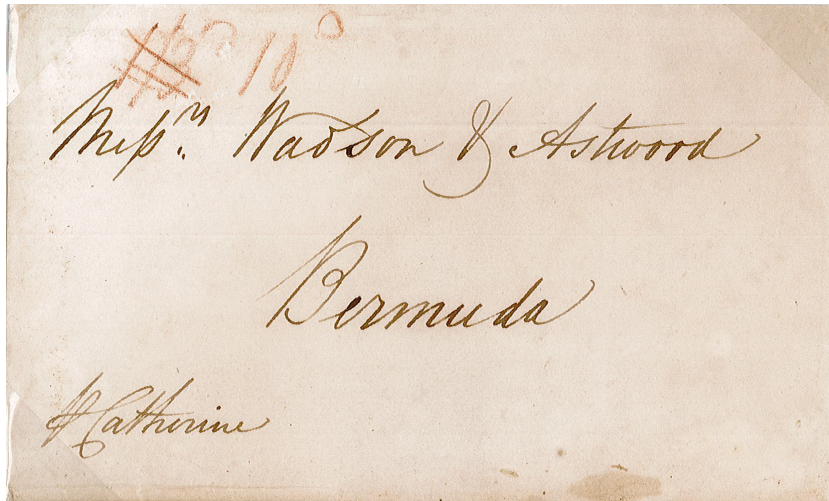
Carried on the Falmouth-New York Packet, 1796



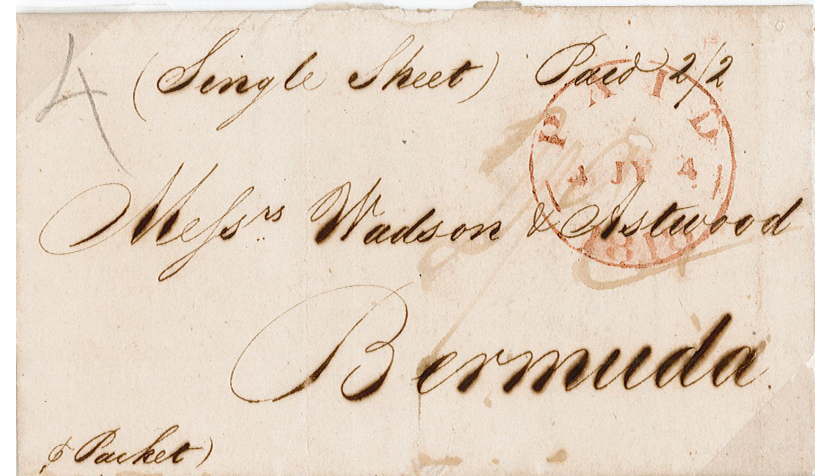
II. Internal Mail

A. 5d. rate period

**The earliest recorded Bermuda postal marking:
manuscript "1/3" corrected to "10d"**



Post Office Closure: C. R. Beach's private internal 4d. charge



B. 1d. rate period
pre-adhesive

1d. accounted for as part of the rating



First Perot in black



First Perot in red



Second Perot

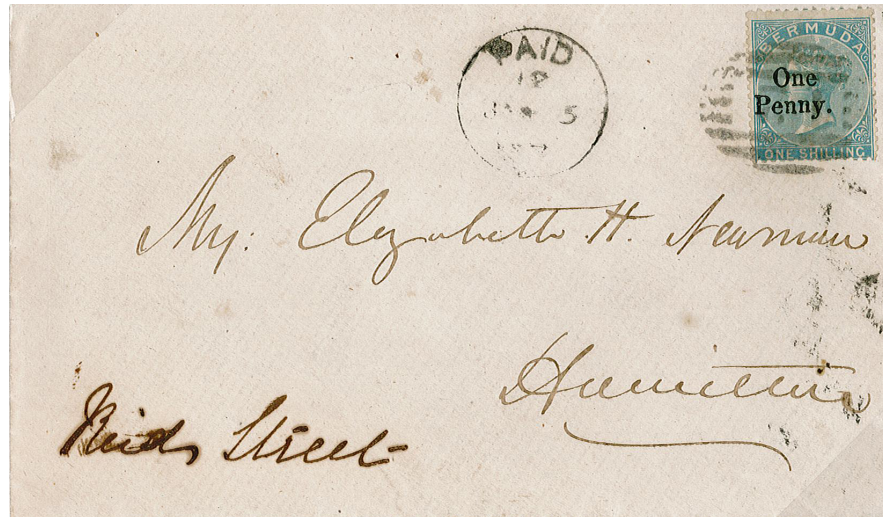


Thies

Ward

B. 1d. rate period
adhesive

1875 "One Penny" on 1/- Provisional used from Harrington Sound
Only recorded example of its barred "12" cancel on cover



III. Military Mail

A. War of 1812

Only recorded cover censored in Bermuda
during the War of 1812



B. Civil War Blockade

One of eleven blockade covers originating at Bermuda
Only recorded blockade wreck cover
Only recorded blockade cover to Charleston originating in Bermuda



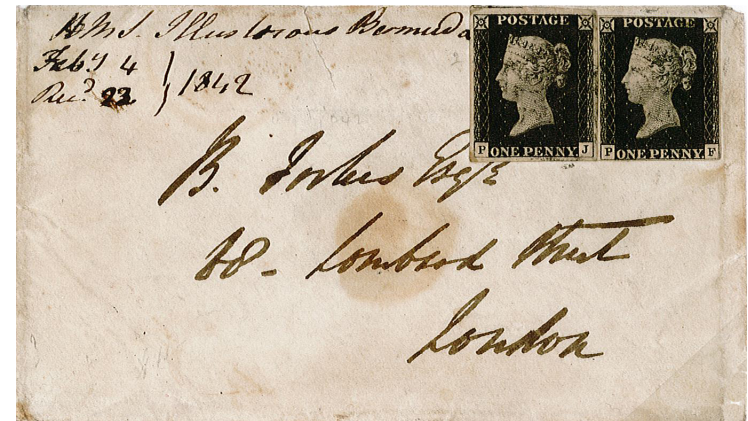
III. Military Mail

C. Concessionary Rate

Only recorded soldier's letter using
an 1875 1d. on 3d. Provisional



Only recorded use of the Penny Black
from Bermuda

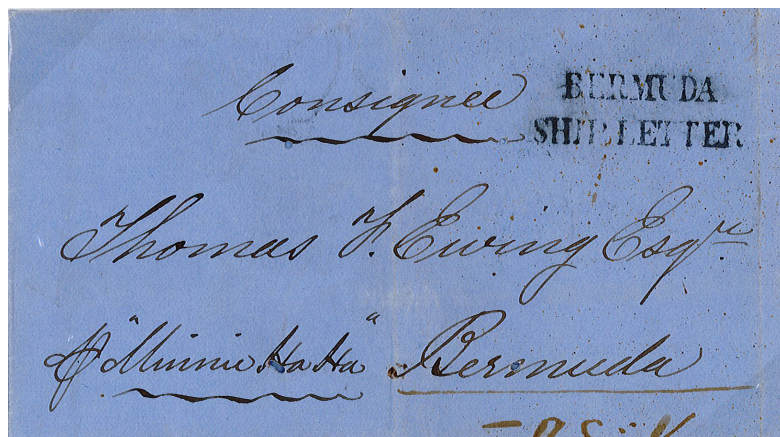


IV. Ship Letters

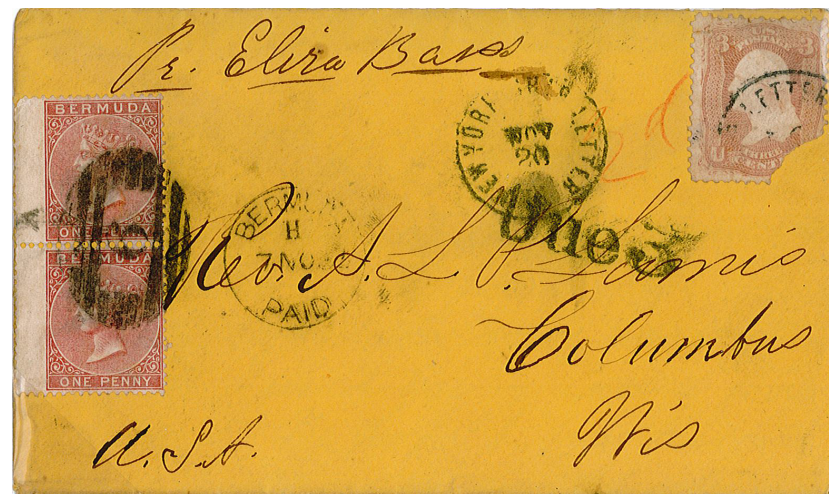
A. Ship Letters

Free **Consignee's Letter**

Black "Bermuda/Ship Letter" handstamp Type 1: two recorded



**Only recorded franked letter from Bermuda to the U.S.
under the new 2d. closed mail rate**



IV. Ship Letters

B. Forwarding Agents

Bermuda forwarder B. Wilson Higgs: **one recorded**



Bermuda forwarder S. Musson & Co.

Two recorded

Incoming Blockade cover, unlisted in Walske



This complete outline is in the hand-out.

Introduction

I. Forerunner period

II. Internal Mail

- A. 5d. rate period
- B. 1d. rate period
 - pre-adhesive
 - adhesive

III. Military Mail

- A. War of 1812
- B. Civil War Blockade
- C. Concessionary Rate

IV. Ship Letters

- A. Ship Letters
- B. Forwarding Agents

V. Packet Letters

- A. GPO/Admiralty
 - Route 1: Oct 1806–Feb 1813
 - winter/summer routings
 - Route 2: War of 1812 Mar 1813–Mar 1815
 - winter route only
 - Route 3: Apr 1815–Oct 1823
 - return to winter/summer routings
 - Route 4: Nov 1823–Dec 1826
 - Route 5: Jan–Sep 1827
 - a. Direct to and from Bermuda
 - b. The Annapolis Packet
 - c. The Mexican Packet
 - Route 6: Oct 1827–Jun 1833
 - return to Route 5a
 - Route 7: Jul 1833–Jun 1840
 - Cunard to/from Halifax

B. Cunard

- Route 1: May 1840–Jul 1848
 - sail to Halifax
- Route 2: Aug 1848–Jun 1854
 - steam (sail as needed))
- Route 3: Nov 1850–Jun 1854
 - New York to Bermuda direct
- Route 4: Jul 1854–Dec 1867
 - St. Thomas added
- Route 5: Aug 1861–Sep 1868
 - Transatlantic Closed Mail

C. Royal Mail Steam Packet

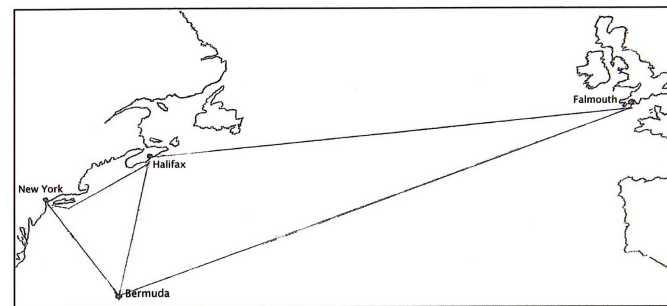
- Contract 1, Route 1: Jan 1840–Sep 1842
- Contract 1, Route 2: Sep 1842–Jun 1843
- Contract 1, Route 3: Jun 1843–Jul 1844
- Contract 1, Route 4: Aug 1844–Dec 1847
- Contract 2, Route 5: Nov 1847–Aug 1850
 - Bermuda southwest to Mexico
- Contract 2, Route 6: Nov 1847–Aug 1850
 - Bermuda south to St. Thomas/Caribbean
- Contract 2, Route 7: Nov 1847–Aug 1850
 - Bermuda northwest to New York

D. Combination of Carriers

- Cunard and private vessels
- Cunard and RMSP: Sep 1850–Sep 1879
- Contract or Crop vessels to NY: 1868–1873
- Cunard and Inman Line: Jan 1868–Jun 1871
- Cunard and Allan Line: Jan 1871–Sep 1879
- Cunard and Quebec & Gulf Ports: Jan 1874–Dec 1877

Conclusion

The GPO/Admiralty Route



V. Packet Letters

A. GPO/Admiralty

- Route 1: Oct 1806–Feb 1813
winter/summer routings
- Route 2: War of 1812 Mar 1813–Mar 1815
winter route only
- Route 3: Apr 1815–Oct 1823
return to winter/summer routings
- Route 4: Nov 1823–Dec 1826

Earliest known Admiralty Packet Letter to Bermuda
December 6, 1807



England to the U.S. via Bermuda, 1814
Only recorded War of 1812 Blockade cover through Bermuda



The first regular voyage after the War of 1812



Bermuda to Virginia and returned
A most unusual handling



A. GPO/Admiralty

Route 5: Jan-Sep 1827

- Direct to and from Bermuda
- The Annapolis Packet
- The Mexican Packet

Double weight, Bermuda to Philadelphia by Annapolis Packet

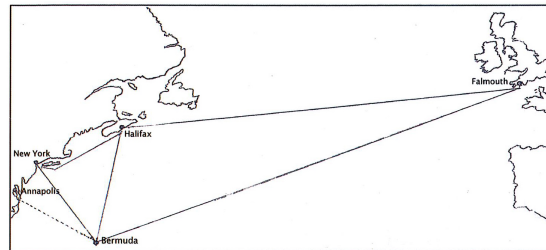
Only recorded cover originating in Bermuda by this route.

Bermuda to London

Bermuda fleuron (PM1) in black



The Annapolis Packet route



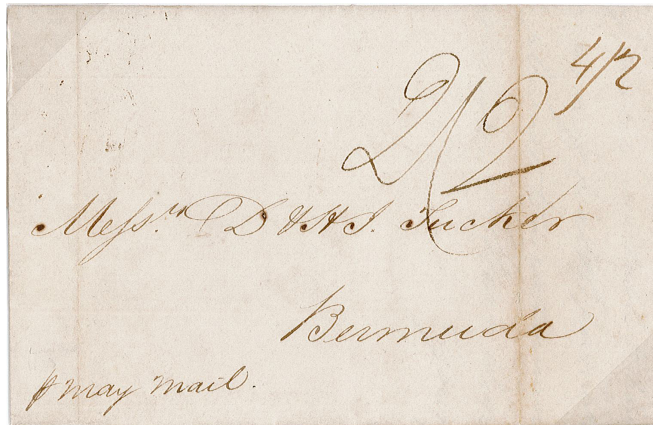
Mexico to Ireland via Bermuda, forwarded



A. GPO/Admiralty

Route 6: Oct 1827– Jun 1833
return to Route 5a

Last trip of the Falmouth Packet to Bermuda

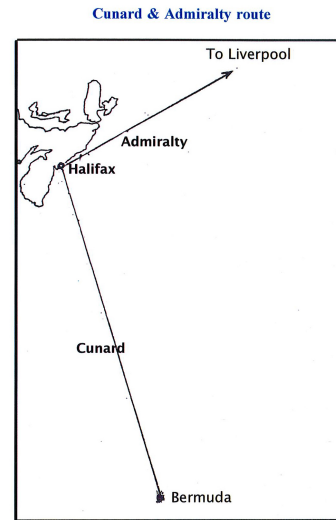


One of two known strikes of "America" arrival mark from Bermuda



A. GPO/Admiralty
Route 7: Jul 1833-Jun 1840
Cunard to/from Halifax

Bermuda to Richmond, redirected
Bermuda PM 3, one of seven recorded



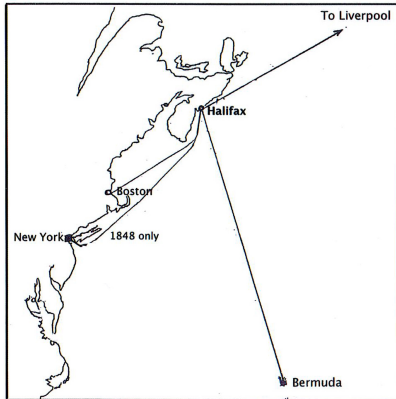
Last trip of the GPO/Admiralty Packet



B. Cunard

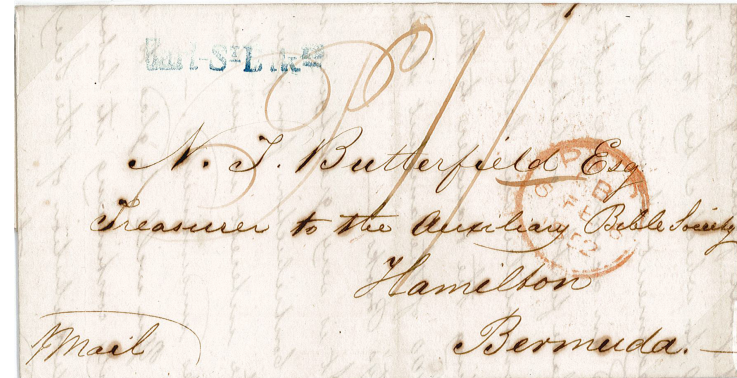
Route 1: May 1840–Jul 1848
sail to Halifax

Route map for Cunard Routes 1 & 2

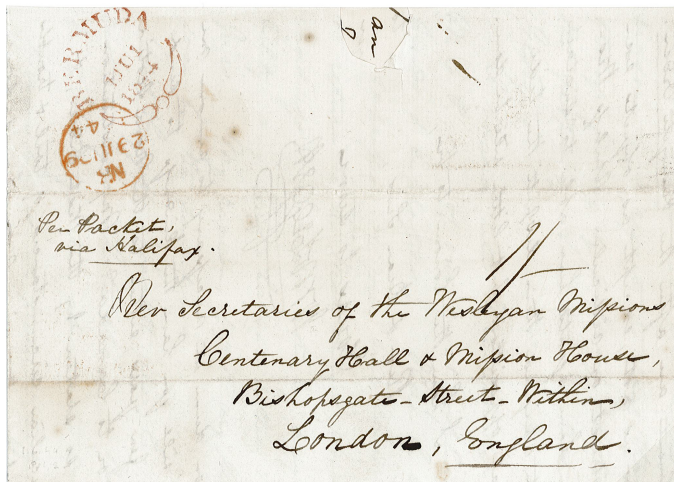


Route 2: Aug 1848–Jun 1854
steam (sail as needed)

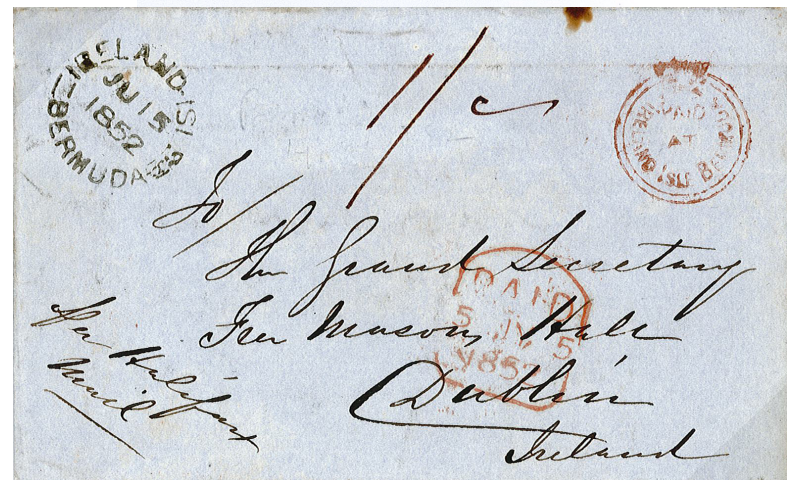
First successful trip of the *Levantine*



Particularly fine strike of Bermuda fleuron PM2



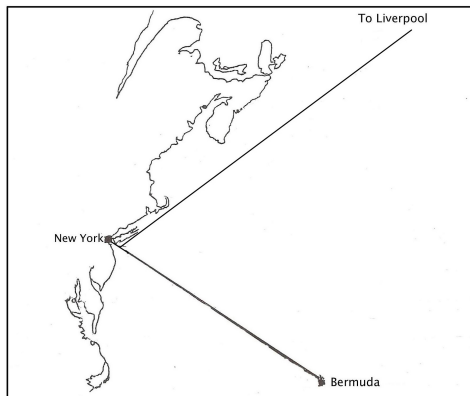
Ireland Island datestamp and Crowned Circle to Dublin



B. Cunard

Route 3: Nov 1850–Jun 1854

New York to Bermuda direct

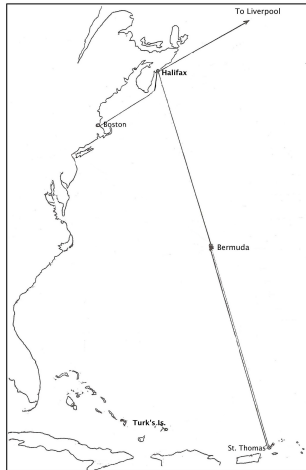


One of three recorded covers to Bermuda by the England-New York route



B. Cunard

Route 4: Jul 1854-Dec 1867
St. Thomas added



Bermuda to U.S. via Boston

Only recorded cover with two Grote's numeral handstamps



Only recorded cover from Bermuda to Sicily



B. Cunard

Route 4: Jul 1854–Dec 1867

St. Thomas added

Only recorded cover from Bermuda to New Zealand
One of two recorded P5 handstamps from Ireland Island

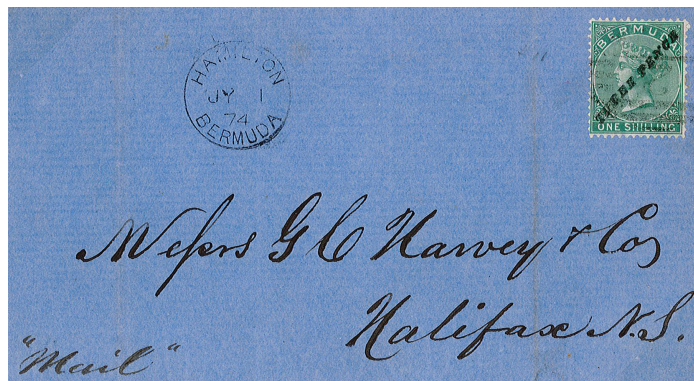


Bermuda to Nova Scotia, franked with 1874 3d. on 1/- provisional stamp



Only Recorded strike of "Paid at Ireland Island"
One of two known Bermuda to New Brunswick

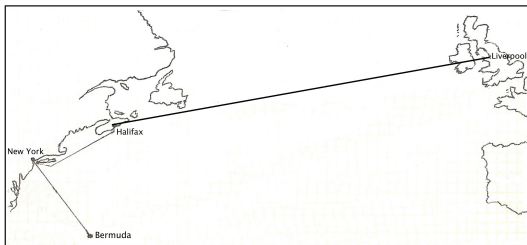
Bermuda to Nova Scotia, franked with 1874 3d. on 1/- provisional stamp



B. Cunard

Route 5: Aug 1861–Sep 1868

Transatlantic Closed Mail



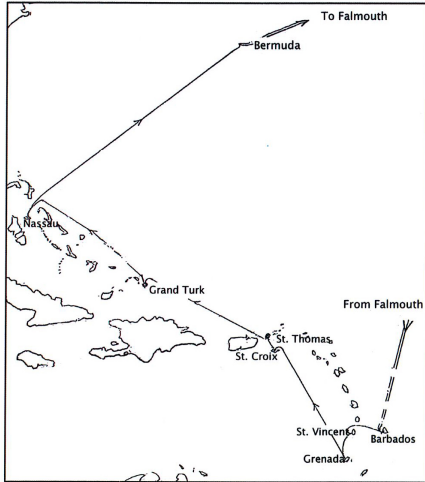
England to Bermuda via New York, **only fully prepaid cover**



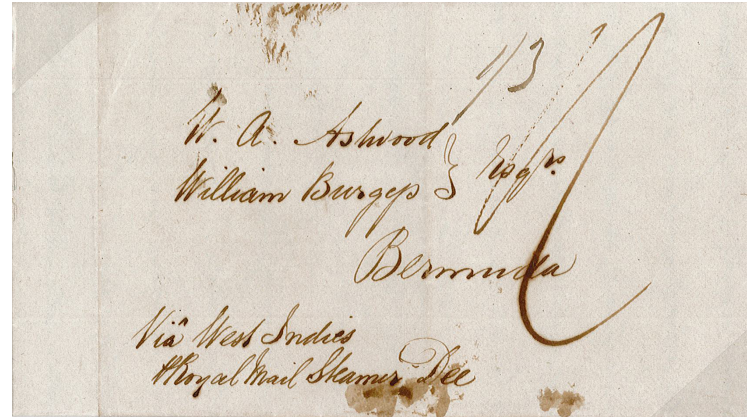
C. Royal Mail Steam Packet

Contract 1, Route 1: Jan 1840–Sep 1842

RMSP First Contract Route 1



The first trip to Bermuda by RMSP



Bermuda to England



C. Royal Mail Steam Packet

Contract 1, Route 2: Sep 1842–Jun 1843

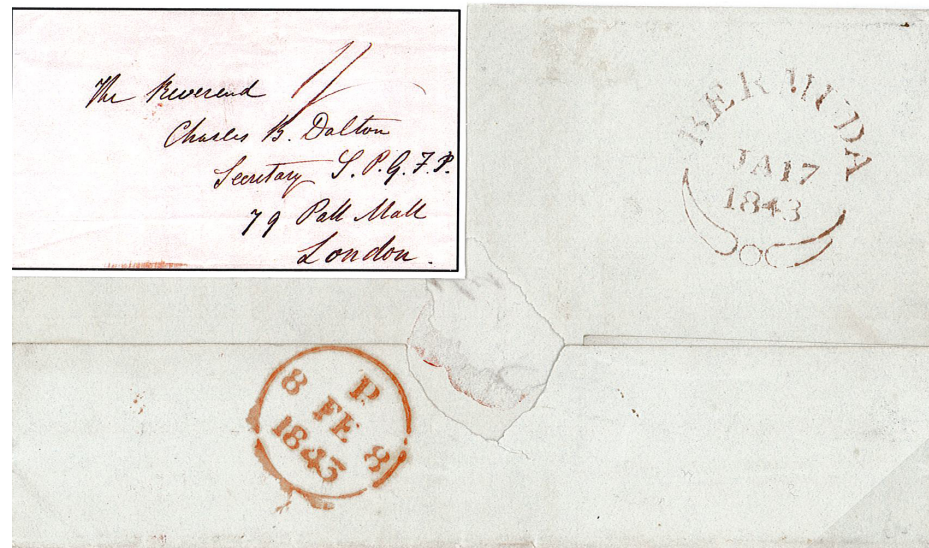
RMSP Route 2



England to Bermuda, delayed

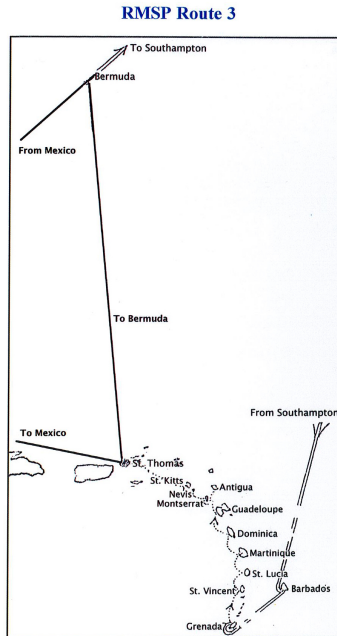


Bermuda to England

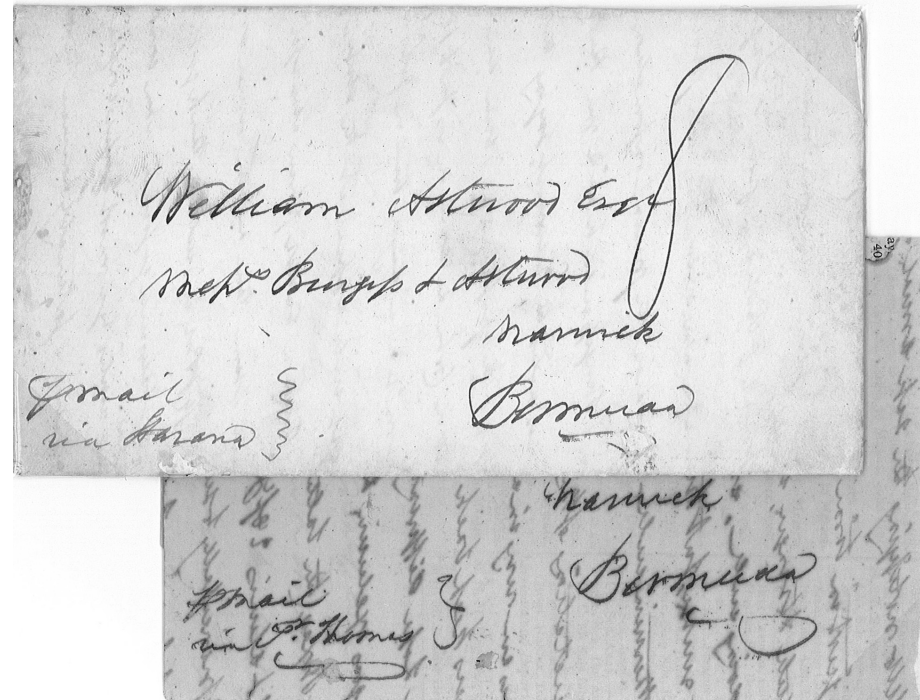


C. Royal Mail Steam Packet

Contract 1, Route 3: Jun 1843-Jul 1844



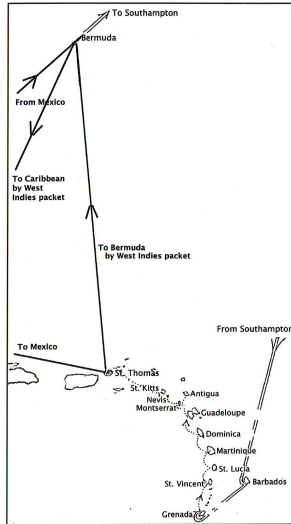
The two routes serving Bermuda



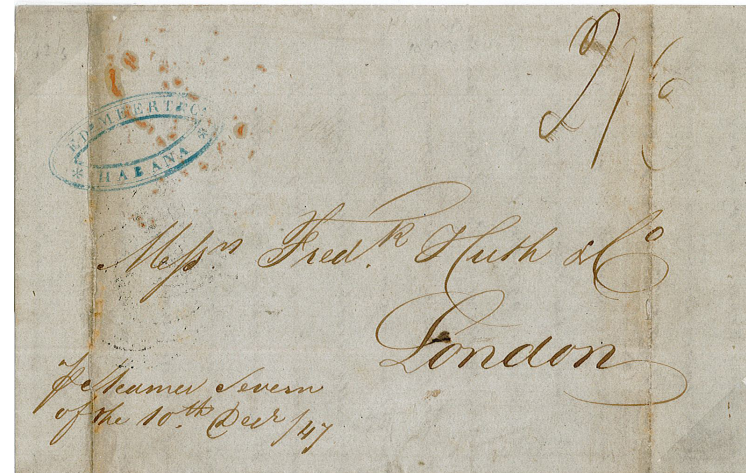
Jamaica is west of St. Thomas. **Mail could be routed** either "**via St. Thomas**" for the direct run to Bermuda **or** by the return trip of the Mexican packet "**Via Havana**."

C. Royal Mail Steam Packet Contract 1, Route 4: Aug 1844-Dec 1847

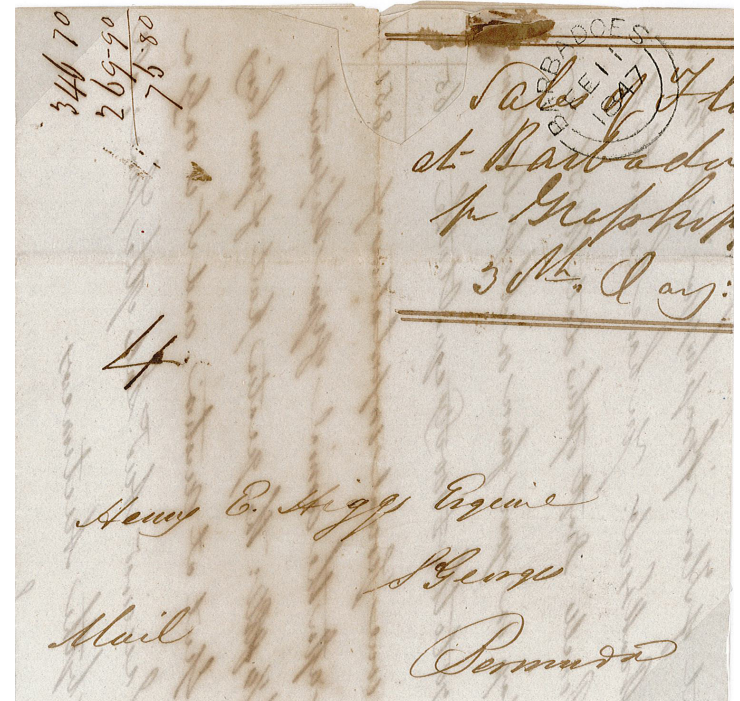
RMSP Route 4



Last trip of the first RMSP contract



Barbados to Bermuda by West Indies packet



Mexico to Italy via Bermuda



C. Royal Mail Steam Packet

Contract 2, Route 5: Nov 1847–Aug 1850

Bermuda southwest to Mexico

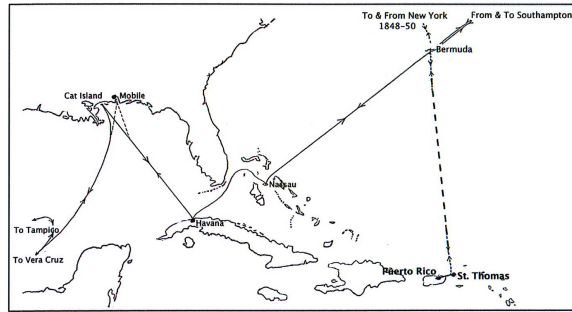
Contract 2, Route 6: Nov 1847–Aug 1850

Bermuda south to St. Thomas/Caribbean

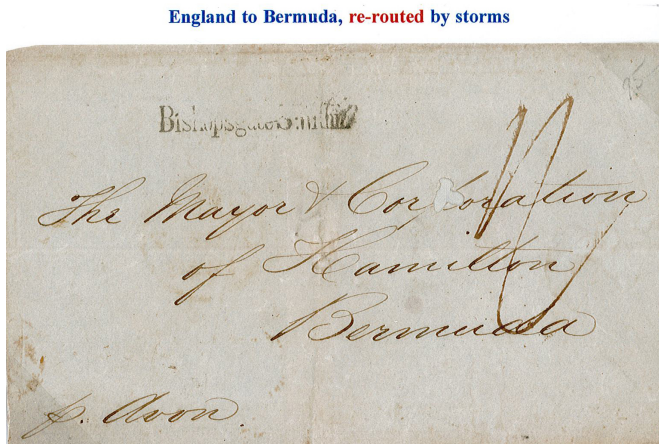
Contract 2, Route 7: Nov 1847–Aug 1850

Bermuda northwest to New York

RMSP Routes 5-7



England to Bermuda, re-routed by storms



London & Southampton, Dec 2, 1848 per *Avon* (on the Mexican route), blown off course to Barbados (West Indies route) finally arriving at St. Thomas Jan 2, 1849. Mail was sent to Bermuda via Brig *Chebucto* on her return trip from St. Thomas to New York, arriving Bermuda Jan 27.

This is a **most unusual unscheduled confluence** of the Mexico, West Indies and St. Thomas-New York routes. The New York route was almost always served by the direct Southampton-Bermuda route.

Mexico to England via Bermuda



Trinidad to New York via Bermuda



D. Combination of Carriers
Cunard and private vessels

Bermuda-New York

One of two recorded prepaid with stamps at the 5d. rate



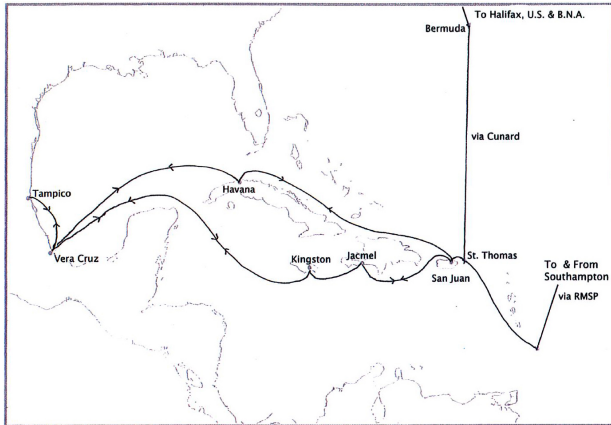
Trinidad to Nova Scotia



D. Combination of Carriers

Cunard and RMSP: Sep 1850–Sep 1879

Cunard and RMSP routes



Bermuda to Grenada



Puerto Rico to New York via Bermuda



D. Combination of Carriers

Contract or Crop vessels to NY: 1868–1873

Bermuda per *Fah-Kee* to New York and England per HAPAG

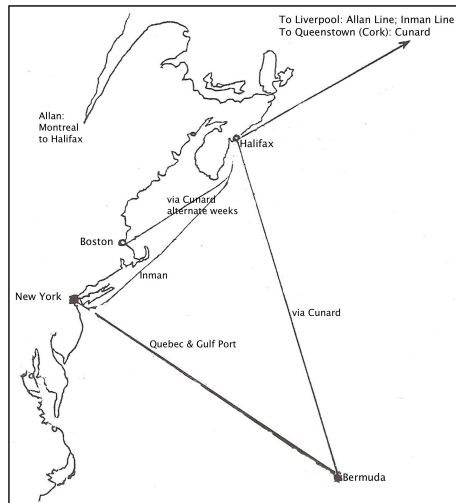


Bermuda to England per crop vessel *Magnolia*



D. Combination of Carriers

Cunard and Inman Line: Jan 1868–Jun 1871



Bermuda to France



U.S. to Bermuda, 1869 pictorial issues



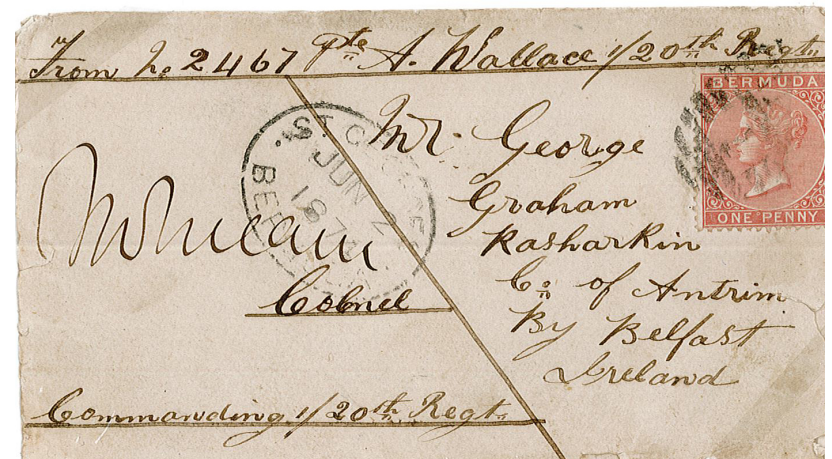
D. Combination of Carriers

Cunard and Allan Line: Jan 1871-Sep 1879

Only recorded cover from Bermuda to Gibraltar



Soldier's Letter to Ireland



D. Combination of Carriers

Cunard and Quebec & Gulf Ports: Jan 1874–Dec 1877

The "Moncrieff" cover

The only recorded cover with all three 1875 1d. provisionals



Conclusion

This exhibit has demonstrated Bermuda's pivotal role as the crossroad of the Atlantic during the 19th century.

Prior to 1806 there was no formal scheduled service. After Bermuda entered the GPU in 1877, the routes remained essentially unaltered until the early 20th century. Cunard stopped her Bermuda-Halifax service in 1886; Quebec in 1916. Other steamship lines, such as Pickford & Black of Canada and the Bermuda Atlantic Steamship Co., carried mail from the late 19th century well into the 20th, until aviation assumed that role in 1937. These latter services deserve their own examination.

D. Combination of Carriers

Cunard and Quebec & Gulf Ports: Jan 1874-Dec 1877

Bermuda to England via New York

First trip of the Quebec Steamship Company



Bermuda to the U.S. at the new 2d. rate

