

Colonial American Postal History 1675-1783

Timothy Paul O'Connor, M.D.

Display and Performance given to
The Royal Philatelic Society London, 14th June, 2018

Colonial American Postal History 1675-1783

Timothy Paul O'Connor, M.D.

Display and Performance given to
The Royal Philatelic Society London, 14th June, 2018

Timothy Paul O'Connor, M.D.

Member: Cheshire Conn. Stamp Club 1962-1968. (They welcomed a young collector), Philatelic Group of Boston 1972-present, American Philatelic Society, US Philatelic Classics Society (Regional VP 1992-1996), The Collectors Club New York, British North America Philatelic Society, The Royal Philatelic Society London, Florida Postal History Society, North Carolina PHS, PHS (US), PHS (UK).

Awards: Grand Award Gold, Philatelic Show Boxborough 2016, Gold World Stamp Show New York 2016.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin interpreter, Presentations at: World Stamp 2016 New York, Chester County Historical Society, Weston-Wellesley Lifetime Learning, RPSL Regional meeting at Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History.

Bibliography

- Timothy O'Connor, *Rate Markings in Colonial Boston*, Postal History Journal (US), No. 81, February 1989, pp. 15-20.
- Timothy O'Connor, *Colonial Postal Laws and Ben Franklin*, Postal History Journal (US), No. 88, June 1991, pp. 30-32.
- Timothy O'Connor, *Report of a New Boston Handstamp*, The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues, Vol. 44, No. 3, August 1992, pp. 164-165.
- Timothy O'Connor and Mark Schwartz, *Use of the Franking Privilege in New England in 1699-1707*, The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, Volume 63, No. 4, November 2011, pp. 305-311.
- Timothy O'Connor, *Neale Patent Mail 1693-1707*, The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, Vol. 65, No. 1, February 2013, pp. 10-24.
- Timothy O'Connor, *The Lovelace Post of 1672*, The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, Vol. 65, No. 4, November 2013, pp. 315-327.
- Timothy O'Connor, *Earliest Letters from Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia*, Postal History Journal, No. 166, February 2017, pp. 2-15.
- Timothy O'Connor, *The Congressional Post Office at Montreal 1775-1776*, The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, Vol. 70, No. 1, Feb. 2018, pp. 11-24.

Introduction

RPSL Exhibit June 2018

Colonial American Postal History dates from the mid-17th century to the end of the American War for Independence in 1783. I divide the topic into British, Transitional and Congressional phases with a special section for mail from Occupied cities.

The British section begins with Forerunner letters, sent before any formal postal attempts. Most common in this era are letters home, usually to England, but also to other European centers. The earliest “posts” were no more than schemes to assure rapid communications between neighboring Royal Governors and governments. For example, the Lovelace Post of 1672-1673 was an effort by Governor Francis Lovelace of New York to create a reliable line of discourse with the New England Confederacy. He realized that, as part of the Second Anglo-Dutch Sea War, the United Colonies would aim to retake New York, recently Nieuw Amsterdam under Peter Stuyvesant. He hoped that the New England militias would rush to his aid. All examples of this Post are archival.

The first true inter-colony Post appeared during the Neale Patent 1693-1707. In America, Andrew Hamilton, ex-Governor of the Jerseys, and recommended to Neale by William Dockwra, negotiated with Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York and Pennsylvania, on behalf of Thomas Neale. Soon, a Post was servicing those Colonies with rates and postal markings. It was so popular in America that, upon its financial collapse in 1707, all the colonial governments passed laws perpetuating the practice, 1708-1711. This exhibit contains the earliest Neale letters, and Bristol Packet mail.

The Act of Queen Anne 1711, An Act for Establishing a General Post Office in All Her Majesty's Dominions, unified colonial postal efforts. European dynastic conflicts stimulated great advances in the postal world. Examples are shown, e.g., the Falmouth Packet. The Act of King George III 1765 altered certain postal rates to the benefit of the public. However, other Crown initiatives were fueling discontent. Taxes on tea and the Stamp Act were viewed as unlawful impositions. The Port of Boston was closed and Boston was occupied. The Crown Post Office was felt to be an unlawful tax and opportunity for Royal censorship.

1775 was a confusing time postally, with the highly independent New England Colonies setting up their own “Posts” under the auspices of the Committees of Correspondence, i.e., Provincial Posts. In some colonies, Patriot and Crown Posts ran in tandem. Occasionally, there was cooperation. Also, some entrepreneurs tried to make their Posts successful. I label this the Transitional Period.

The Second Continental Congress, meeting after the Battles of Lexington and Concord, rapidly organized a safe Post, for the transmission of intelligence, and also the preservation of commerce. This Congressional Post became a durable institution after a troubled beginning.

Occupation mail refers to letters originating in occupied cities. Rarely, more concrete examples of the King's Post reappear, e.g., handstamping devices.

One of the major themes of colonial American mail involves extant currencies, and their relationship to the post. The Neale Patent succeeded to a great extent by allowing letters to be rated for and paid in “local money.” Hard coin was disappearing and most colonies printed local script used for commerce at discounts. Those currencies began to appear as postal rates in the mid-1720s in Massachusetts. The Acts of Queen Anne and King George, of course, specified the rates in Sterling. Prior to 1754, Postmasters had to be facile with a large number of currencies both for rates and payments. Benjamin Franklin and William Hunter, Co-Deputy Postmasters General, recognized this issue as a major cause of accounting errors. They corrected the problem by declaring specie to be the rating currency of choice in the Colonies.

Frame 1

Forerunners and Neale Patent mail

- Page 1. 1677 Medford Massachusetts to John Levrett, Governor of Massachusetts. Possible Merchant's Subscription Post. Contemporary letters allude to a Merchant's Post, but no definitive examples exist.
- Page 2. 1675 Fort Albany to Rotterdam, the **earliest letter** from newly re-conquered Dutch Fort Orange. 2 Stuyvers Dutch internal postage in red crayon. **Figure 1.**
- Page 3. 1689 "Boston in New England" to Rotterdam, "ff" is prepayment of a ship captain's fee, 11 Stuyvers in red, Dutch ship and inland rates, **earliest forwarding notation on a letter from America.** **Figure 2.**
- Page 4. 1693 Boston to Rotterdam, "p Capt Barnet viam Amsterdam," letter mentions copies of prior missives going by different ships, much mail was lost at sea.
- 1703 "Saintt John's Newland July 3, 1703" to Boston, "Via Barmuda," **earliest Newfoundland letter**, reporting quick sale of Boston goods, loading fish and going to Europe, triangular trade. **Figure 3.**
- Page 5. 1695 New Castle New Hampshire to Lieut. Gov. of Province (at Piscataqua/Portsmouth), earliest Neale letter, "For His Majesty's Service," Constabulary Post, "Praying all Justices & Constables to be Aiding and Assisting... Hast Post Hast," the Neale Patent formalized Official mail as free. **Figure 4.**
- Page 6. 1697 Boston to Fort at Saco, Neale Patent Official mail, **earliest letter to Maine**, "ffor His Majesty's Service," military letter raising troops for the Fort.
- 1707 Charlestown (Mass) to Cambridge, late Neale Patent mail, "For har Majesty's Service."
- Page 7. 1703/4 "Corotoman in Rappahannock" (Virginia) to Leverpoole, Tobacco Fleet mail, son to father, "p Capt Blundell," refers to Capt Bryan Blundall, Master of the Liver of Liverpool, tobacco ship built in Virginia 1699.
- 1703 Liverpool to "Capt Robert Moone Commander of ye Elizabethans in Rapahammack River in Virginey," the Royal Marines to guard England's most precious crop. Father to son.
- Page 8. 1709 New York to Boston, **Earliest non-archival town marking**, rated 12 pence to Boston. **Figure 5.**
- Page 9. 1710/11 Rappahannock (Virginia) to "Leverpoole," Bristol "B" AP12, 5 pence incl. 4p inland. **Figure 6.**

For
My Loving Brother
Mr. Andrew Russell
Merchant
in
Holland. Rotterdam

Handwritten text in Dutch, likely a postscript or address, is visible on the reverse side of the paper.

Figure 1

To
Mr. Andrew Russell
Merchant in
Rotterdam

Handwritten signature and date:

London: 19: Feb: 1688. & Adressed of
Your humble
Ja: Hume

Figure 2

Mr. Daniel Lillie
Merchant
in Boston
New England
Via Bermuda

Figure 3

For His Majestys Service
To the Hon^{able} John Wither Esq^r
His Majestys Lieut. Govern^r &c.
of Province
New Hampshire
Praying all Justices & Constables
to be Aiding & Assisting
East Post Road

Figure 4

To Mr. David Jeffries
and Company
Merch:
In Boston
My no

My no

Figure 5 with Detail

To
Mr John Brown
Mercht in
Liverpool
These

Bristol 15th June 1711 recd &
forwarded by G^d Edw. Hatch
H. Par. 1711

11th June 1711
Mr John Brown
Liverpool

Figure 6

Frame 2

Act of Queen Anne 1711

- Page 1. 1711 Philadelphia May 2, 1711 to Liverpool via Bristol Packet, Bristol Capt. Ball, "post pd to nyk doub" is pre-Queen Anne, Inall2N8 includes 2 shillings double Packet, 2 x 4p Anne Inland to Liverpool, NEW YORK, one of 5 known, **earliest American city handstamp. Figure 7.**
- Page 2. 1712 Philadelphia December 10, 1712 to Liverpool, "paid to nyk 20d," double weight, 9p inland "1p to place a letter on board a ship," possible landing at Bristol, 1p Captain and 2 x 3p inland to London = 7, 2 x 4p inland to Liverpool = 15, Inall1N3.
- Page 3. 1712 Bristol England to Boston, BSh 5d, **earliest American Queen Anne ship notation.**
- 1712 St, John's (Newfoundland) to Boston, "1-1/2 oz", Newspaper notes "Capt Tho. Jenkins entered in from Newfoundland, July 14."
- Page 4. 1714 Newport Rhode Island to Boston, R 4 + 1d/5d, earliest Rhode Island town marking, **earliest American Way letter. Figure 8.**
- 1721/22 Newport to Boston, "R" is the town mark for Newport, Act of Queen Anne stipulates rate of 4 pence Sterling despite 75 mile distance.
- Page 5. 1734 New York to London via Boston, "NY Paid to Bos: 4dwt 8gr," 1 of 3 known, rare Queen Anne rate for PO to place a letter on board a vessel. **Figure 9.**
- Page 6. 1734 Kellett (near Lancaster) to Philadelphia, 4p inland to Quaker friend in London, forwarded to Boston, 7dwt inland to Philadelphia, 2p (16 grains) for Captain, "Bos Shp 7dw 16gr."
- Page 7. 1735 London to Philadelphia, "Marlbo Ship letter 3d 16g," letters via Chesapeake Bay were Tobacco Fleet mail, 3dwt = 9 pence inland 101-200 miles, 2p Captain's, **earliest Maryland marking. Figure 10.**
- 1735 London to Philadelphia, "Annapolis 3dwt 16gr," "P viam Maryland," tobacco fleet. **Figure 11.**
- Page 8. 1735 Boston to London, "P Capt Cary," Ship Susannah lands deal June 6, June 9 London receiver, rated 4, 3p inland under 80 miles, 1p Captain.
- 1740 New York to London via Portsmouth, letter during War of Jenkins Ear, enclosed are accounts of Col. Gooch's Regiment of Colonial Soldiers, 1p Captain, 3p to London, total 4.
- Page 9. 1747 Charlestown South Carolina to London, privately carried, then Penny Post. **Figure 12.**

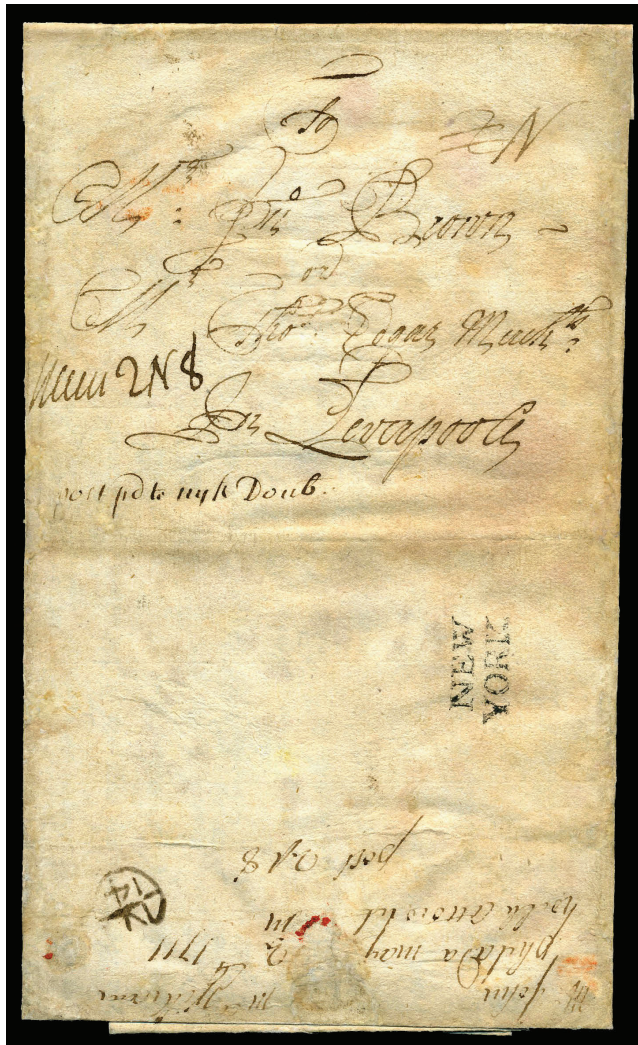


Figure 7



Figure 7 Detail

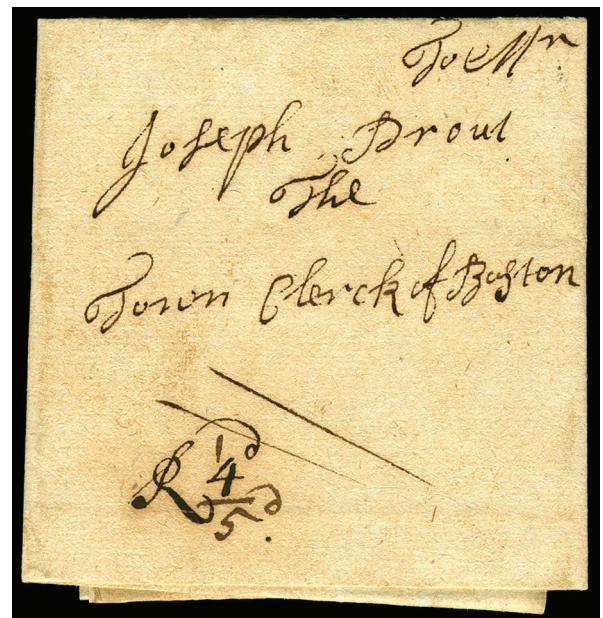


Figure 8

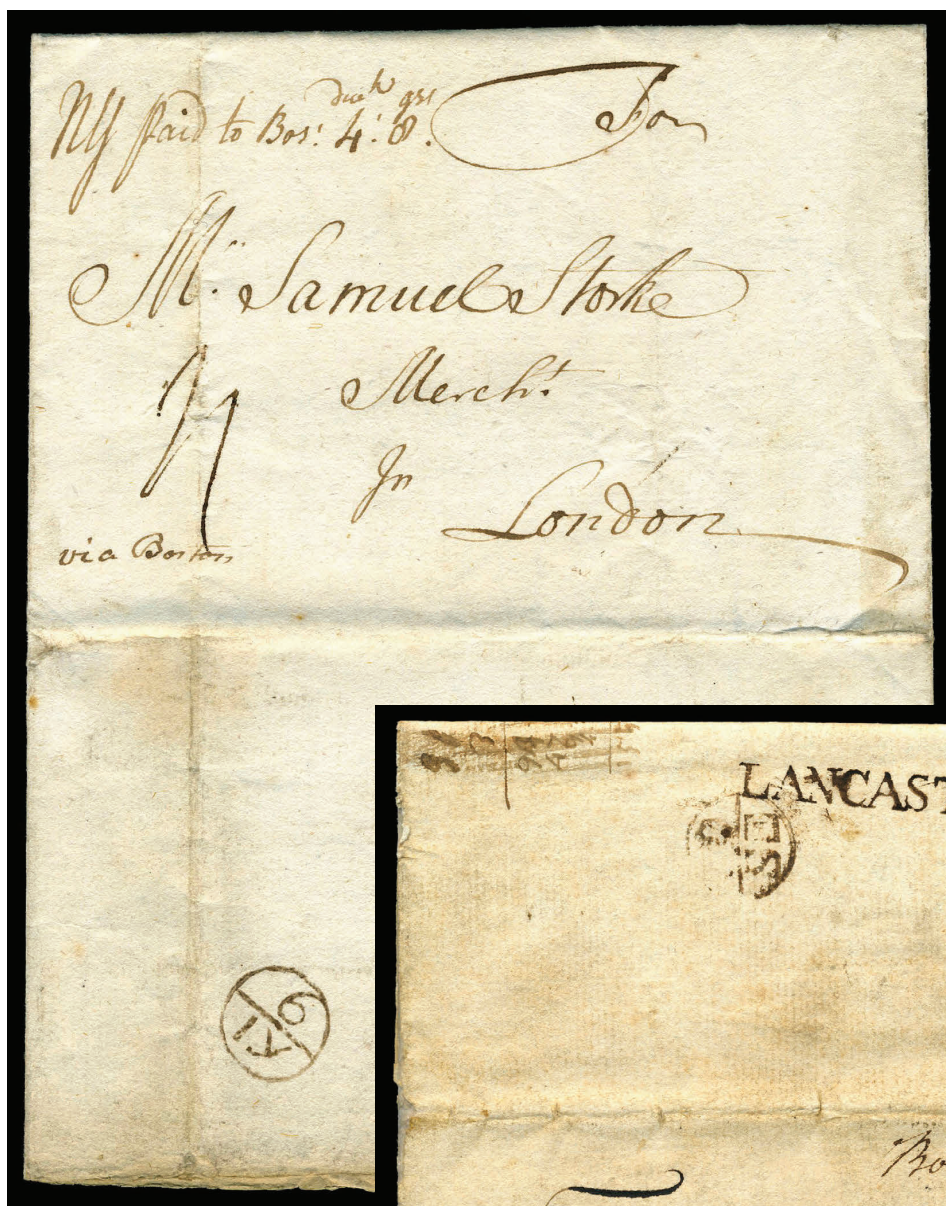


Figure 9

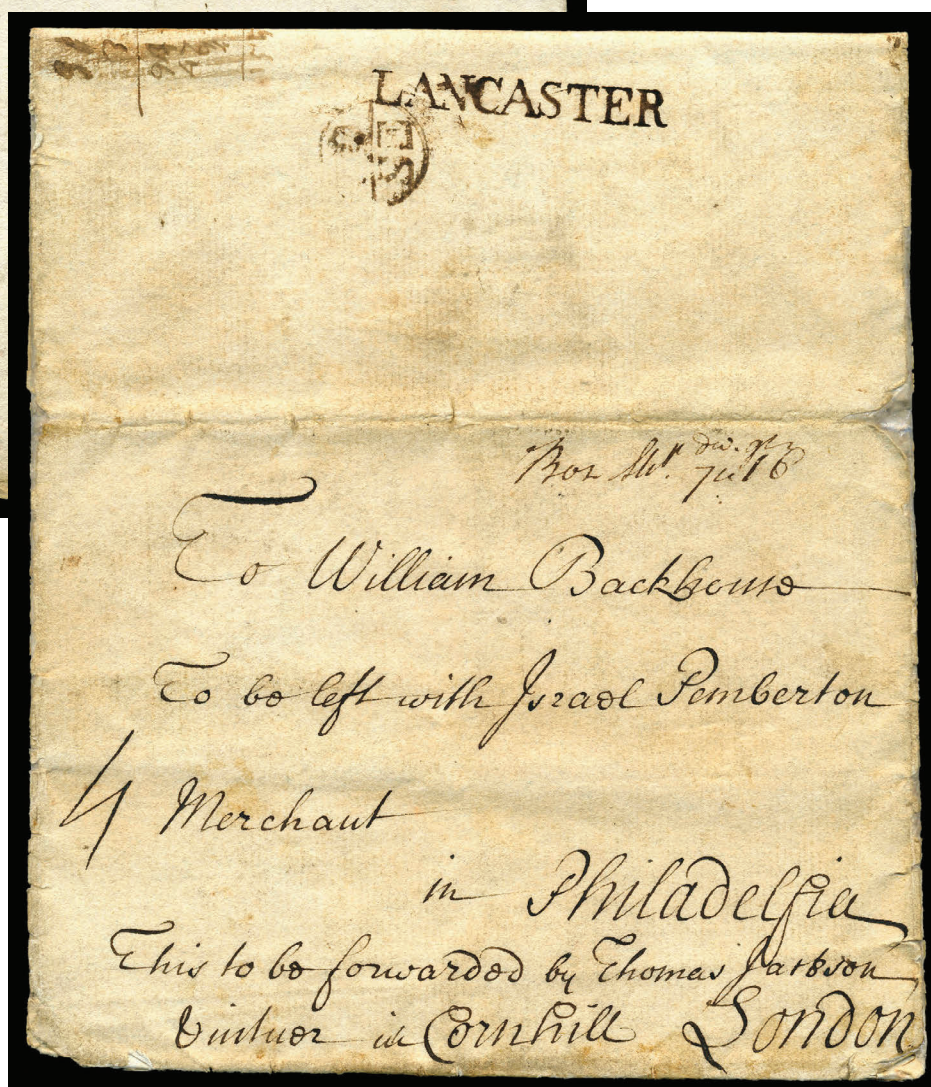


Figure 10

To Amoseli 3 Dec 16 9
 Daniel Mearns M.D.
 Phil^a & the Pennsylvania
 No. 3
 Provided Dr. Mearns be about 25 pounds
 after him to place her maybe bound for
 from 1 place Philadelphia
 Maryland

Figure 11

13
 The Rev^d Doct^r Bearecroft Secretary
 to the Society for Propagating the
 Gospel &c. at the Charterhouse
 London



Figure 12 with Detail

Frame 3

Act of Queen Anne and Act of King George III 1765

- Page 1. 1746 Stratfield (near New London Connecticut) to Boston, rated 2 shilling 8 pence in local Connecticut money (equal to 9 pence Sterling), **earliest Connecticut postal marking. Figure 13.**
- 1762 Newport to Philadelphia, "R ID 7d/," 7dwt = 21p Sterling, inland for 301-400 miles, 2/11 Pennsylvania local, was paid to redeem the letter.
- 1749 Newport to Boston, "R 2/4" in Massachusetts Old Tenor currency at a 7-fold depreciation.
- Page 2. 1755 London to Philadelphia, second voyage Falmouth Packet, Earl of Leicester, delayed by weather, prepaid 1 shilling to New York, 3dwt (9 pence) inland collect to Philadelphia. The Seven Years War and need for faster communications stimulated this postal advance. Earliest American Crown device. **Figure 14.**
- Page 3. 1765 Lyme Connecticut to Norwich (Conn), Way letter harvested by the Post rider heading east (i.e., the Western Post Rider) to New London, "WW 1dw 8gr" Western Way, via private Newspaper Post up Thames river to Norwich, 6d in Conn. money, total collected 1/ shilling on Conn money, **one known. Figure 15.**
- 1760 Portsmouth to Philadelphia," EWay 8dwt 8gr," Eastern way, 4p 1dw 8g to Boston + 7dwt Boston to Philadelphia, **4 known.**
- Page 4. 1760 Camp Fort Ontario to Hebron (Conn.), "Free p Mr. Thompson" "From the Army", **first Free for The Army mark,** to the care of the Revd Mr. Dorr Hartford," French and Indian War mail. **Figure 16.**
- 1756 Boston to Groton (Conn.), "Bo 3dwt" in red, Connecticut militia.
- Page 5. 1764 Curacao to Middleburg in Zeeland, double weight, forwarded to Philadelphia, and to New York, 2N, Falmouth Packet Earl of Halifax, arr. March 28, closed bag to Harwich, 16 red Stuyvers Dutch inland and Sea Post. **Figure 17.**
- Page 6. 1764 Kingston Jamaica to Albany, on verso "Forwarded by YHOS Samuel Mifflin Philadelphia July 28, 1764," 3dwt 16gr to NEW YORK (backstamp), 3dwt to Albany.
- 1765 Norfolk Virginia to Philadelphia, late Act of Queen Anne mail, 10dwt (30p) for 501-600 miles, Merchants in all the colonies and Canada complained bitterly about the high postal rates, due to the long distances in America. During the Act of Anne, the volume of mail actually decreased, until Franklin's reforms of 1754, and population growth turned the tide.
- Page 7. 1766 Boston to Schenectady (New York), Under the Act of King George, the rates for all the steps over 101 miles were decreased, 6dwt (18p) for this trip vs. 21p under Queen Anne.
- Page 8. 1766 New Haven to New York, "Bo Way 2," picked up by the Boston Post rider, 2dwt pays the 61-100 miles increment.
- 1769 Boston March 13 to Providence, violet BOSTON in use 5 months, earliest February.
- Page 9. 1767 London to Norwich Conn. "Bosh 3.8," charged for Captain's fee and inland to New London, 6p Connecticut local for trip up river to Norwich, private Newspaper Post. **Figure 18.**

NI 2/8
To the Reverend
M^r Thomas Foxcroft
Boston

Figure 13

NEW YORK 3rd
To
John Pemberton
Merchant
Philadelphia
Whe. Packett
Via N. York

Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

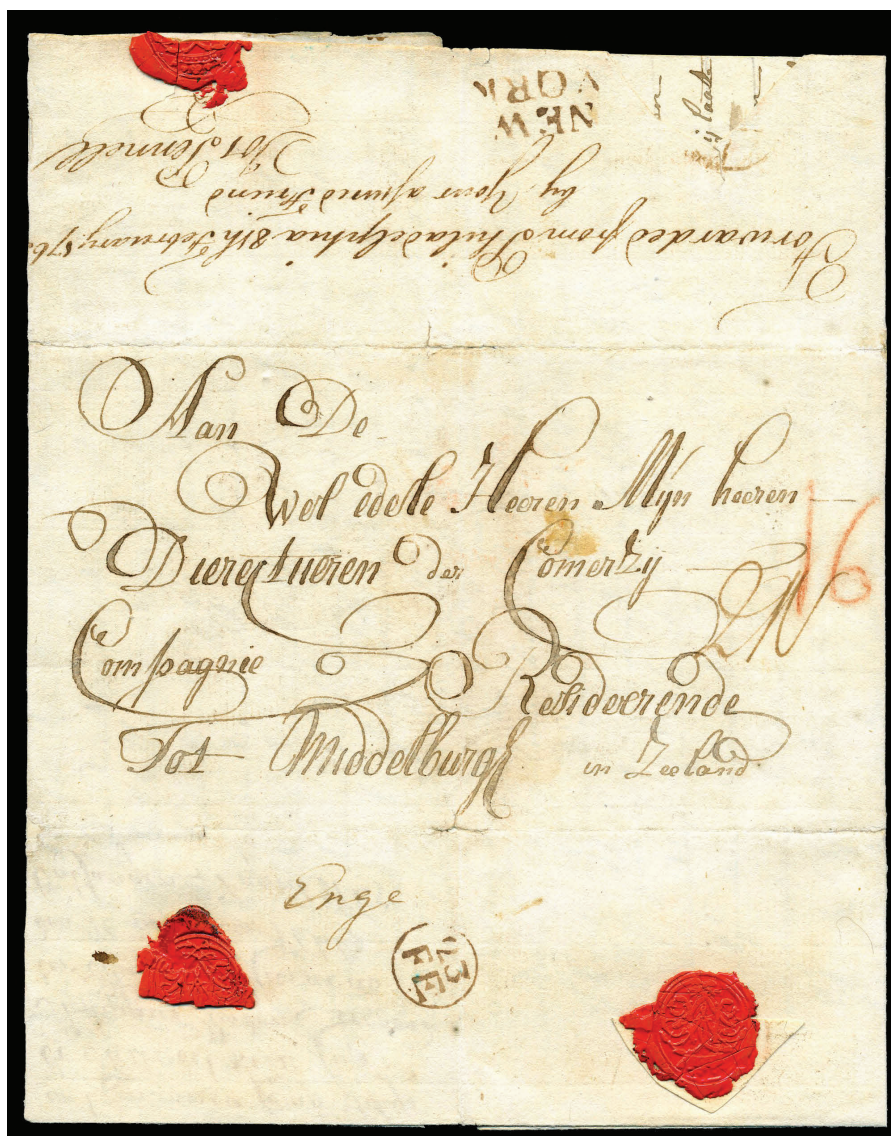


Figure 17

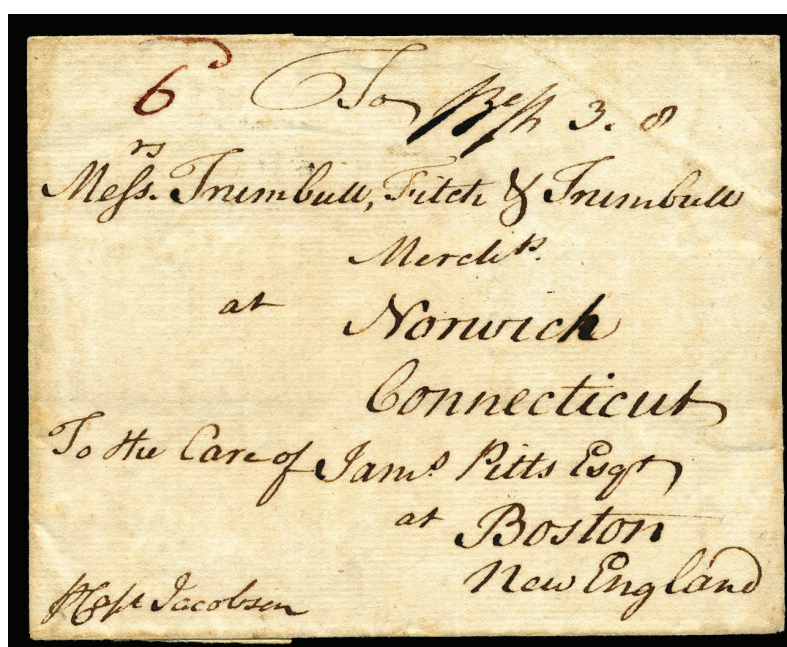


Figure 18

Frame 4

Act of Queen Anne and Act of King George III

- Page 1. 1765 Jamaica to St. Augustine, British East Florida, double weight, no ship fee charged, 1N4, 2 x 8p inland SAVANNA to Florida, Georgia Gazette May 2, "Schooner from Jamaica Alex Mills Master, to be quarantined on the Tybee River, all mails recovered," one of 2 known. **Figure 19.**
- Page 2. 1766 London to Philadelphia, BFreeFranklin mss, red FREE in circle, frank of Deputy PMG North America. **Figure 20.**
- Page 3. 1767 Philadelphia to London, Thomas Penn Proprietor, double weight, 4dwt = 2 x 6p inland, Falmouth Packet Lord Hyde, 2N.
- 1768 London to Newport, ship mail of Capt Scott, BoSh 2dwt 16gr., 2p (16gr) for Scott.
- Page 4. 1766 Hartford to New York, 19 x 10 mm HART/FORD, 8p = 2.16 rate, **2 known. Figure 21.**
- 1766 Hartford to London, 27 x 12 mm HART/FORD, "paid to New York 2.16," NEW/YORK, Falmouth Packet Lord Hyde, 1N, **3 known. Figure 22.**
- 1767 Hartford to Boston, back to a manuscript Hartd, 2.16 for 8p inland.
- Page 5. 1769 Boston to Philadelphia via New York, Ny 16gr corrected to the proper King George III rate.
- 1767 Brunswick (New Jersey) to Newport (RI), Brun: 1.8, NEW/YORK transit backstamp.
- 1770 St. Dorothy's Jamaica to Edenton North Carolina, "Mr. Neil is requested to forward this letter by first, safe opportunity," refers to transmission to Kingston/Port Royal where a ship bound for NEW BERN was located. Double weight, inland 8p = 16p + 2p for Captain = 1N6, **unique. Figure 23.**
- Page 7. 1773 Newtown (Eastern Shore Maryland) to Philadelphia, via Queen Anne, triple, 3 x 2.16 = 8dwt (24p), 3/6 paid includes 2p local delivery fee, NEW/TOWN in red orange, **3 known. Figure 24.**
- 1772 Talbot to Philadelphia via Newtown, "p Post", 2.16 (8p) single rate, 1/4 includes local Philadelphia delivery fee.
- 1767 Winchester (Virginia) to Williamsburg, forwarded to Newport, Hobb's Hole, **2 known.**
- 1770 Anne Arundel County to Philadelphia, different style and ink NEW TOWN, double, 4dwt.
- Page 9. 1767 West River (near Annapolis) to Philadelphia, 2.16 inland, ANNA/POLIS handstamp **earliest of 3 known.**
- 1770 Talbot County to Philadelphia, 2.16 rated, but "P Post Pd 1/2," prepaid except 2p local fee.



Figure 19 with Backstamps inset



Figure 20 with Detail



Figure 21 with Back Side Detail

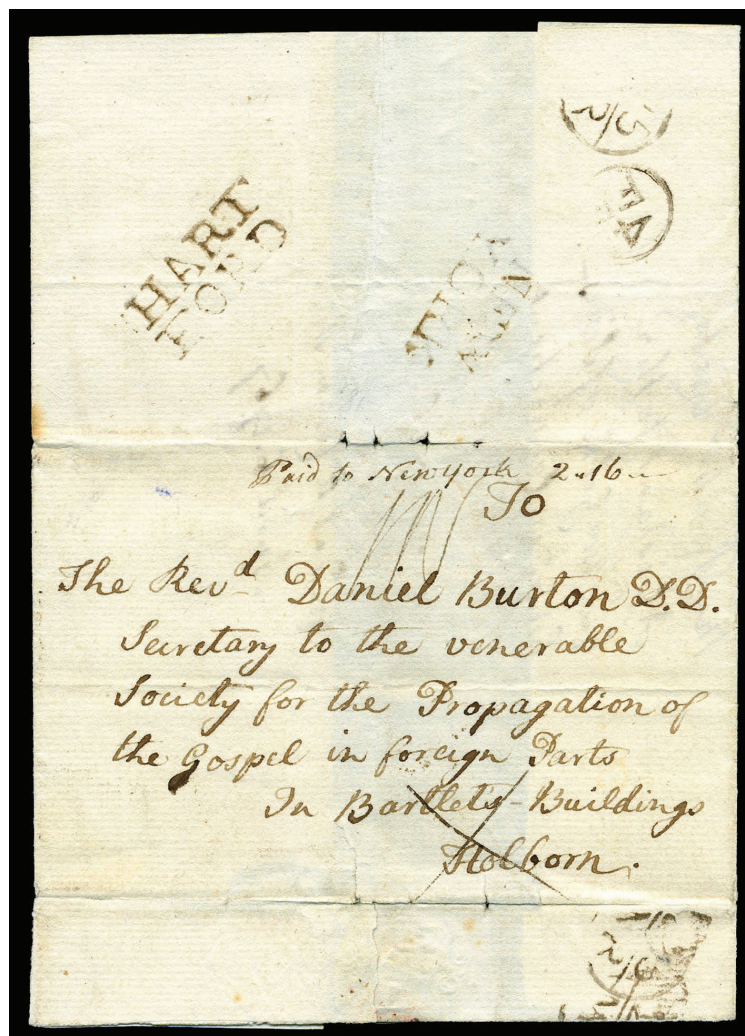


Figure 22

Frame 5

Act of King George III

- Page 1. 1768 Amsterdam to Newport, Forwarder GH Hayley had offices in Amsterdam, London and other European cities, double weight, Bo Sh 4.16.
- 1772 Barcelona to Marblehead via Philadelphia, Forwarded to PHILA/DELPHIA so ship fee disappeared, 4dwt = 12p, 10/ is Mass Old Tenor payment at 10:1 terminal depreciation.
- Page 2. 1768 Waterbury (near New Haven Conn.) to London, "NH 2.8 Paid," inland to New York 6p (2dwt) so extra 8gr !, circular AMERICAN POSTAGE PAID, 1N, Falmouth Packet Earl of Halifax, arr. 3 March. **Figure 25.**
- 1769 same Waterbury to London, "inland postage to pay 6d Sterling," Falmouth Packet 1N6.
- Page 3. 1769 Philadelphia to "Trader on the Mohawk River," POST PAID, to Albany, forwarded to Schenectady, Jellis Fonda, Indian trader, had sources of ginseng root. **Figure 26.**
- Page 4. 1769 New York to Halifax (Nova Scotia). 3dwt 8gr to Boston, extra 16 grains (2p) to place letter on board a ship and ship fee, "Capt Latta outward bound for Halifax," advertised in NY papers. **Figure 27.**
- Page 5. 1771 Boston (December 22) to Providence Rhode Island via Newport, 4p Port to Port rate + 4p under 60 miles = 8p = Fd 2.16, roads closed during weather "46 degrees below freezing," letter by sea.
- 1773 Newport to Philadelphia, prepaid 8dwt, **3 known NEWPORT.**
- Page 6. 1772 Georgetown on Wynch Bay (South Carolina) to North Britain, "post paid to Charlestown /4," CHARLES/TOWN, Falmouth Packet Eagle, 1N, 6p to Edinburgh, Inall 1N6, forwarded to Balhany 3, 1N9 total. **Figure 28.**
- 1769 London to St. Augustine East Florida by Charlestown Packet Eagle, 1N, inland free for Gov. Grant.
- Page 7. 1774 Philadelphia to Pool, inland "To pay 6d," in red, INLAND AND PACKET POSTAGE accountancy mark, 1N6, extra 4p to Pool, 1N10. **Figure 29.**
- 1774 Tomoka Cowpen (near St. Augustine British East Florida) to London, "To pay 2H," possible Florida rating, double weight, via CHARLES/TOWN, Falmouth Packet rated 3N, in London correct rate with accountancy marking. **Figure 30.**
- 1773 Schenectady (New York) to London, via ALBANY, rated 2.16 inland to NEW/YORK, "To pay 8d," in faint red, Falmouth Packet Duke of Cumberland arr. Falmouth Feb 3, 1N8, **3 known ALBANY.**
- Page 9. 1773 Post Office Bill for monies due from Newport.
- 1773 Philadelphia to New York, 2dwt inland = 11d New York local money, "Mr. Antill is requested to forward this letter so as to obtain and Answer by the Return of the Post," special delivery.



Figure 25 with Docketing

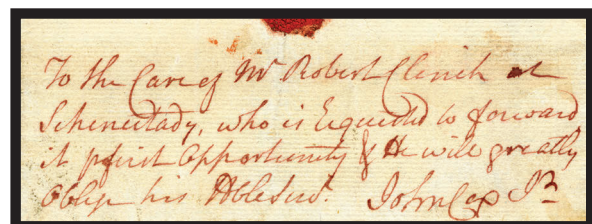


Figure 26
with Detail



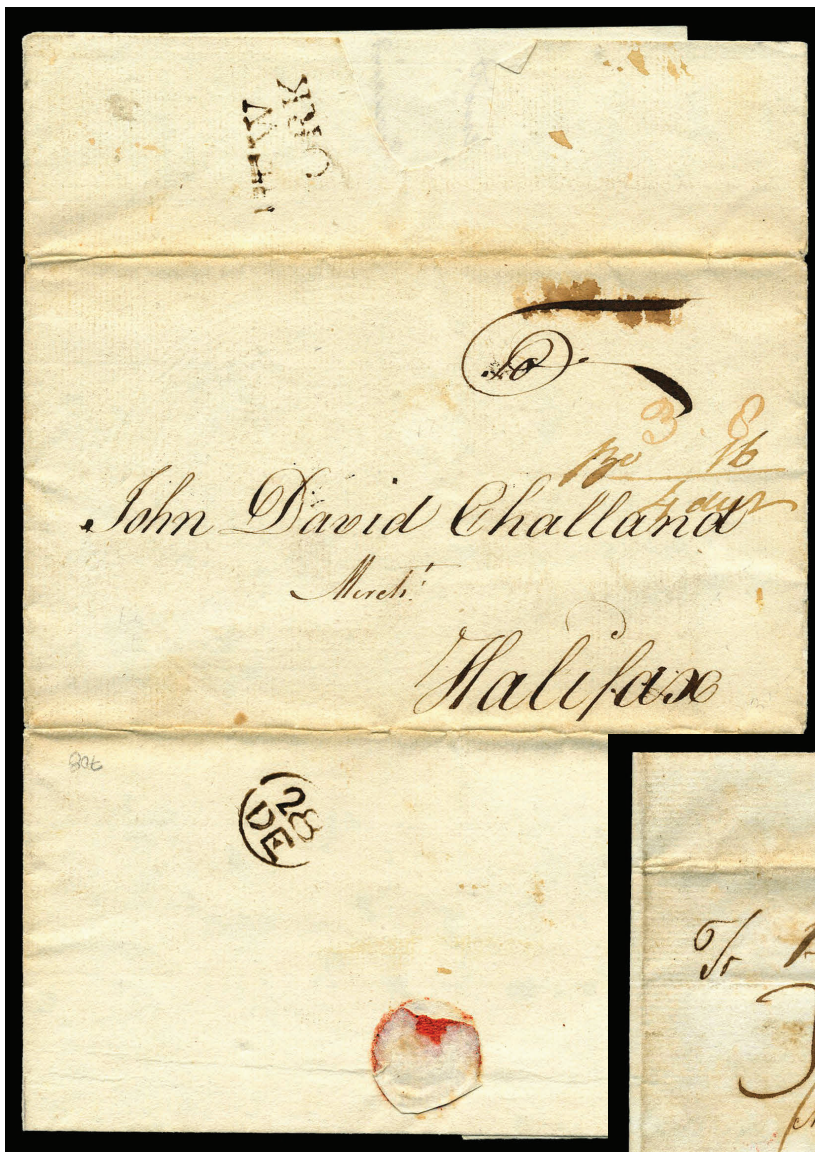


Figure 27

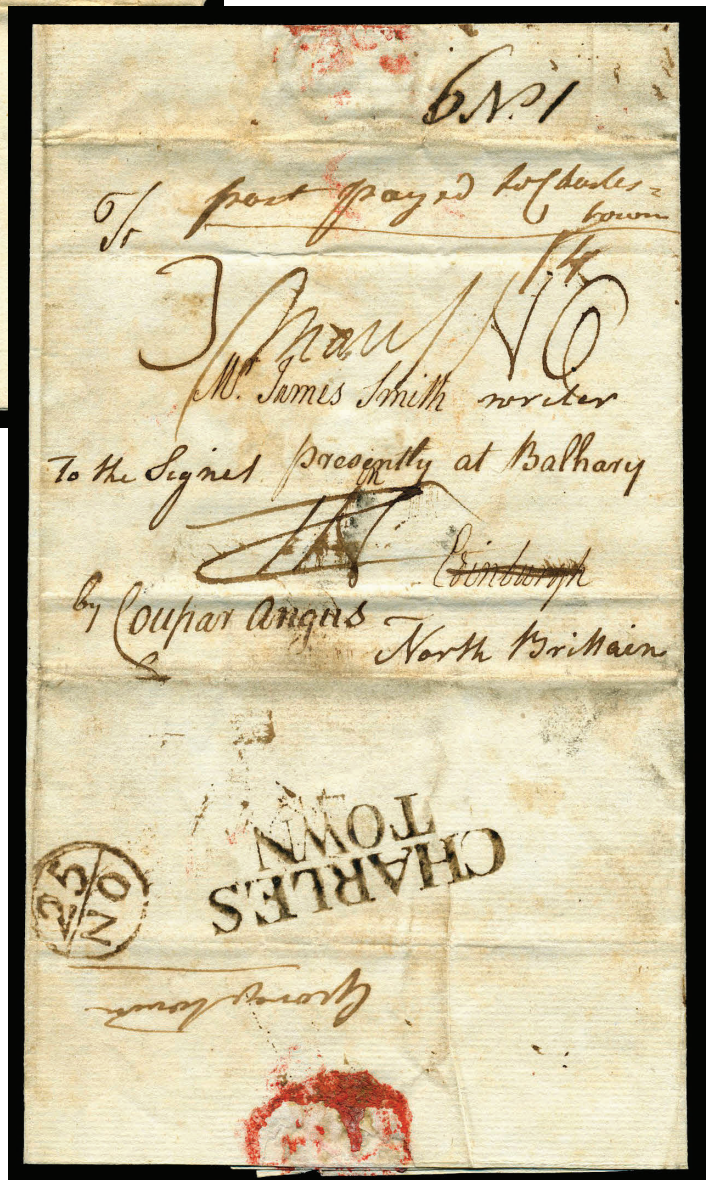


Figure 28



Figure 29 Front and Back Sides



Figure 30

Frame 6

Act of King George III

- Page 1. 1773 Charlestown (Mass.) to Philadelphia, 4dwt rating for 12p distance, 1/10 Penn. Local paid.
- 1774 Newburyport "Ny" to Philadelphia via BOSTON 4.16 (14p), 2/2 Penn local at 1.67 depreciation + 2p delivery, handstamps usually on verso. **Figure 31.**
- Page 2. 1773 Leghorn (February 25, Italy) to New York via Philadelphia, Author "hasty report, as taking opportunity of a ship going directly to Philadelphia" arr. 1 May, 2+ months, Sh 2.16 rate, 1/5 paid NY.
- 1773 Harve de Grace (France) to New York via Hampton and Williamsburg, Virginia Gazette December 3 "Peggy from Harve de Grace had arrived in the James River." Hptn Sh 5.8 charged, redeemed 2/7 (faint red) in New York local money, sharp WmsBURG. **Figure 32.**
- Page 3. 1773 Albany to New York, prepaid, double circle PAID, **3 known**, ALBANY backstamp, Colonial prepayment rare 100:1 inland, 1000:1 transoceanic. **Figure 33.**
- 1774 Philadelphia to Lancaster (Pennsylvania), "post paid" and red POST PAID, only Albany and Philadelphia had handstamped PAID markings in this time period.
- Page 4. 1773 Quebec to Boston via New York, double circle with solid triangle, 5dwt 8gr to New York + 3.8 to Boston = 8.16.
- Page 5. 1774 Fairfield (Conn.) to London via New York, "Fd 2." "To pay 6d" in red, Falmouth Packet Lord Hyde arr. Falmouth Nov 7, INd AND PACT) POSTAGE) 1N6, uncommon accountancy mark. **Figure 34.**
- Page 6. 1774 Philadelphia (November 11) to Lancaster Virginia via Williamsburg, William Giles Goddard, strident Patriot and Postmaster rated letter in specie, 4dwt to Williamsburg, John Dixon, Loyal PM, rated letter in Sterling, 1N4 total, first style Crown marking devices still in use.
- Page 7. 1775 Boston to Newport, triple weight, 6dwt, small BOSTON is new.
- 1775 Annapolis to Philadelphia, 2.16 for 8p inland, second style Crown device, rare red, **earliest.**
- 1775 Salem (Mass.) to Rhode Island, 2dwt = 6p, **two known. Figure 35.**
- 1775 New Haven to Wethersfield, double weight, NEW * HAVEN, **unique. Figure 36.**
- Page 9. 1775 London to Springfield, Mass Bay, New England, Falmouth Packet Duke of Cumberland, arr. New York March 13, not prepaid 1N, due 4dwt + 2.16 inland = 6.16, 2nd style NY Crown handstamp.



Figure 31



Figure 32



Figure 33 Front and Back Sides

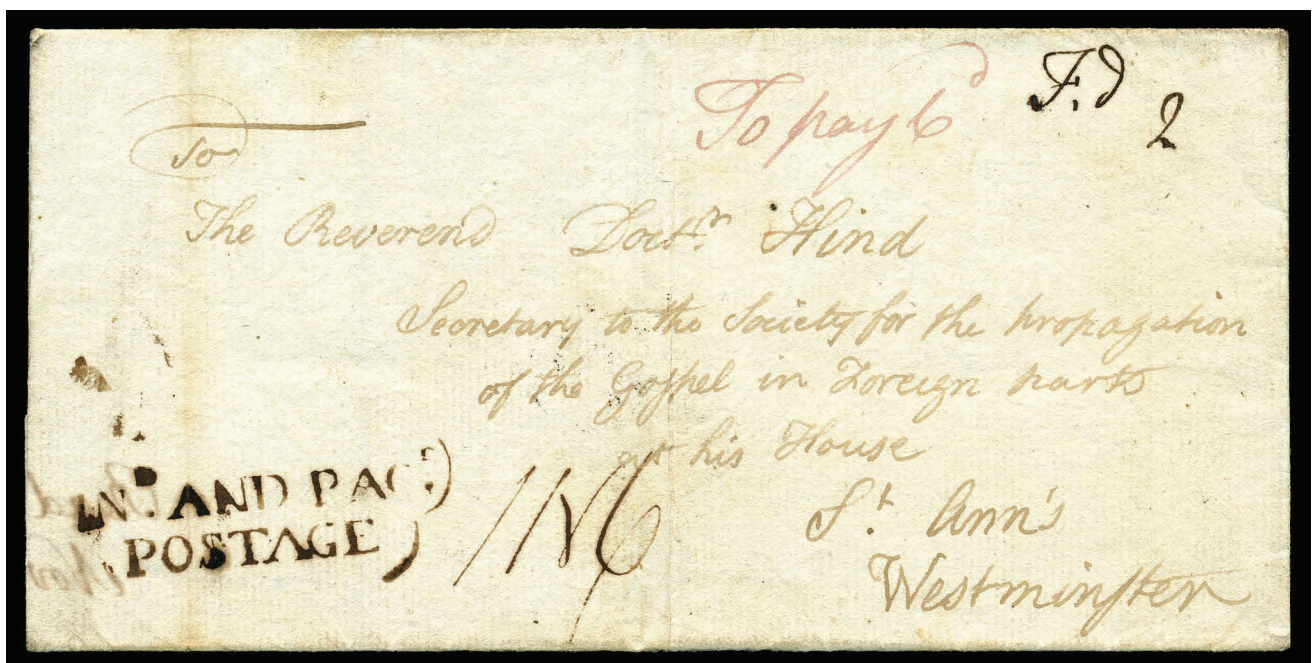


Figure 34

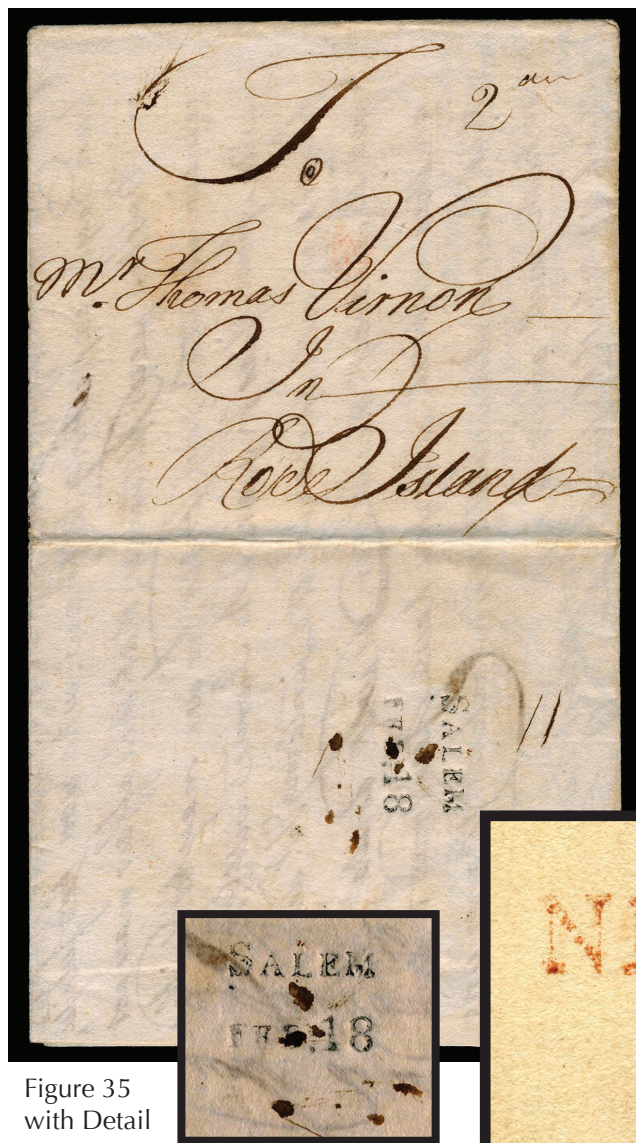


Figure 35
with Detail

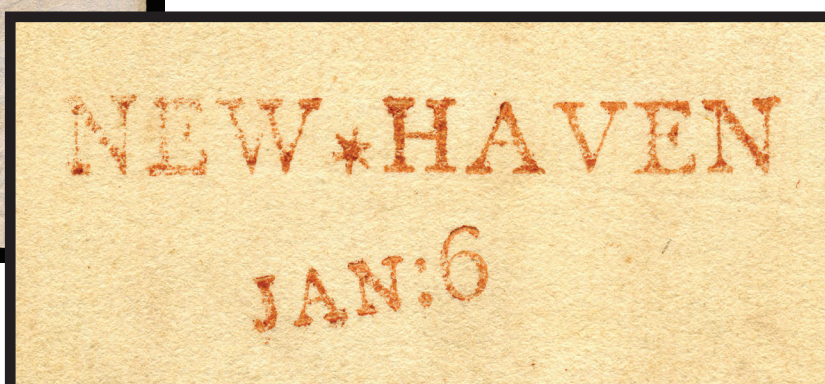


Figure 36 with Detail

Frame 7

Act of King George III

- Page 1. 1775 London to Newport via Marblehead, Port of Boston closed March 25, 1774 in retaliation for dumping of tea, all commercial shipping to nearby Ports, **MARBLEHEAD unique. Figure 37.**
- 1775 Pigg Point (Maryland) to Philadelphia via Upper Marlborough, **MARLBRO' unique. Figure 38.**
- Page 2. 1775 New York to Postmaster Newport, FREE, RN Colden Secretary to Deputy PMGs, March 7, asking for names of Loyal Postriders, the mail is being intercepted by Patriot Committees of Safety.
- 1775 Rye (New York) to London, privately carried to New York, Falmouth Packet Harriot, 1N, arr. Falmouth June 8. "1n: 9," not thought to be a postal marking.
- Page 3. 1775 Newbury to Philadelphia, 4.16 (14p) for 401-500 miles, collected 2/2 Penn. Local, **NEWBURY one of 3 known. Figure 39.**
- 1775 Portsmouth to Boston, April 7, 8 days before battles at Lexington and Concord, 6d "P Post" which will cease to function in 8 days, **PORTSMOUTH red unique. Figure 40.**
- Page 4. 1775 Albany to Montreal, May 6, 10d Stg rate 201-300 miles, last letter into Montreal as Ethan Allen has blockaded Fort Ticonderoga which falls May 10. **Second style ALBANY unlisted, unique. Figure 41.**
- 1775 Port Royal (Virginia) to Philadelphia, June N10 rate, 1/7 paid in Penn., second style Crown FREDERICKSBURG, King's Post functioning nicely below Philadelphia.
- Page 5. 1775 Suffolk (Virginia) to Edenton (North Carolina), double weight, N8 = 2 x 4p, Edenton is 55 miles away, **red Suffolk unique on a letter. Figure 42.**
- Page 6. 1775 Georgetown (Eastern Shore Maryland) to Philadelphia, wrapper, originally rated "5/Sterg" (60p and "postage paid;" but 4 1/2 oz, so 18 x single rate (6p) = 108p, so underpaid 48p "under charged 4/" "9/" total, "to pay 6/10" in Penn money = 48 x 1.67 depreciation = 80 + 2p delivery fee. **Figure 43.**
- Page 7. 1775 Talbot Court House (Maryland) to York Town Pennsylvania, rated N8 to Philadelphia (PHILA red backstamp) and 6p to York, 1N2 total, **TALBOT C HOUSE unique.**
- Page 8. 1775 Barbadoes to Philadelphia via NORFOLK **3 known**, double, 1/1. Paid Caribbean ship and Captain's fee, 2 x 4 dwt (12p) to Phila.= 2H = 2 Shillings, late 1775 and Crown Post persists. **Figure 44.**
- Page 9. 1775 Bristol England to New York, Forwarded to Falmouth "P Packet Harriot," arr. Sept. 16, avoiding American Privateer blockade, faint red "Unpaid 1/d," mail held at NY PO as all Post riders dismissed, redeemed for 1/9 New York currency.
- 1775 New York to North Britain, via penultimate Packet to leave New York, Earl of Halifax arr. Falmouth Dec. 14, 1N crossed out in London, 6p to Edinburgh Inall 1N6, PM Antill would transfer the New York Post Office to a warship in New York Harbor on December 25.

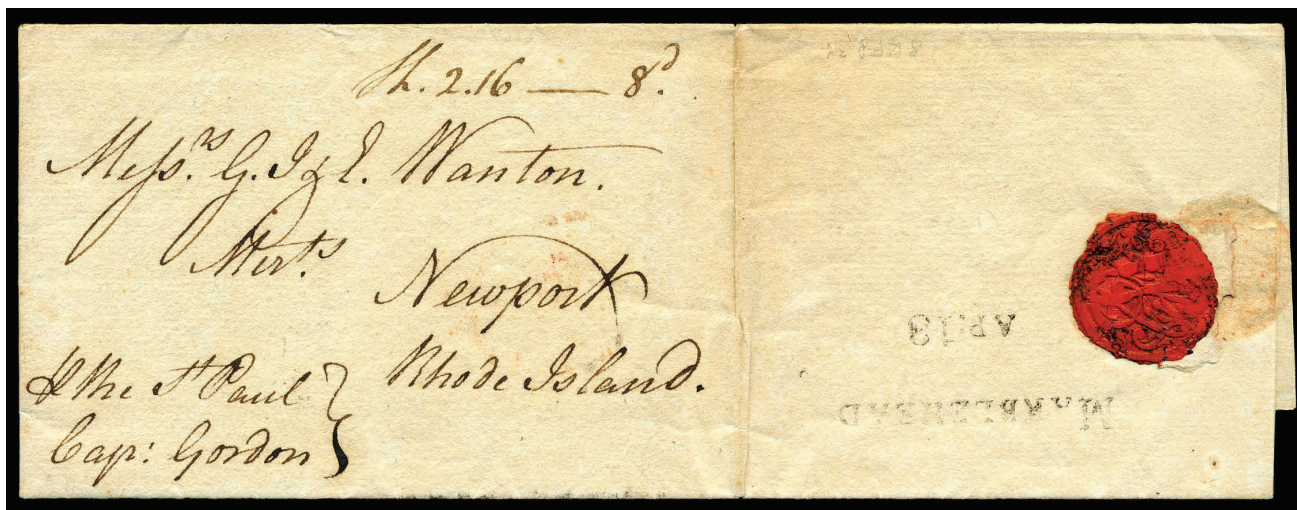


Figure 37 with Detail



Figure 38

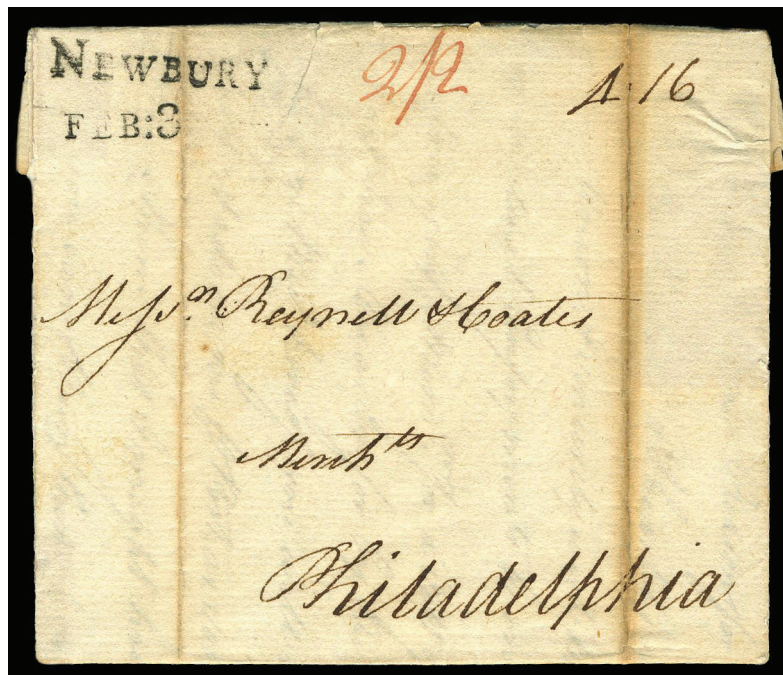


Figure 39



Figure 40



Figure 41

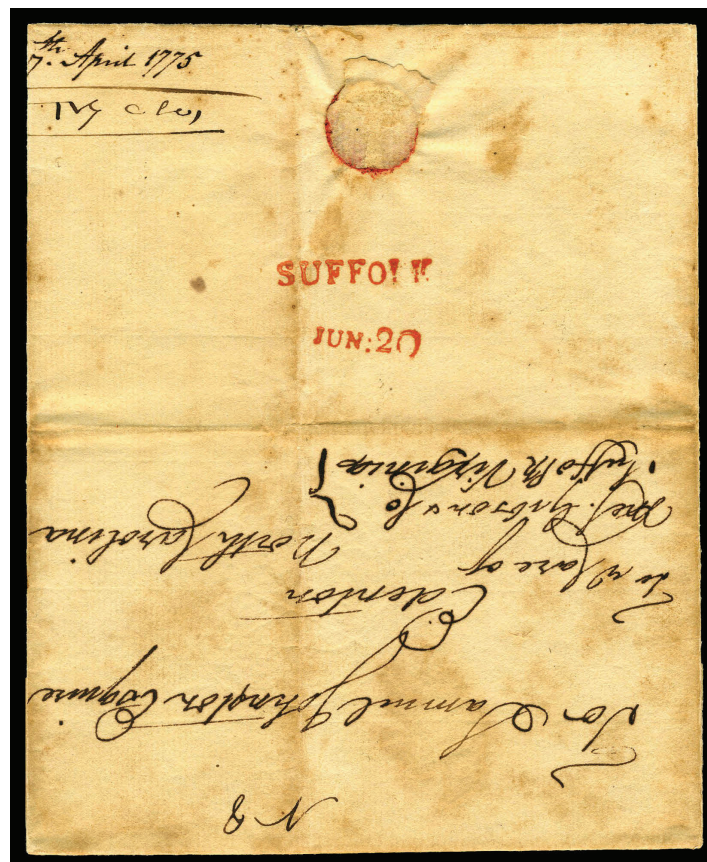


Figure 42

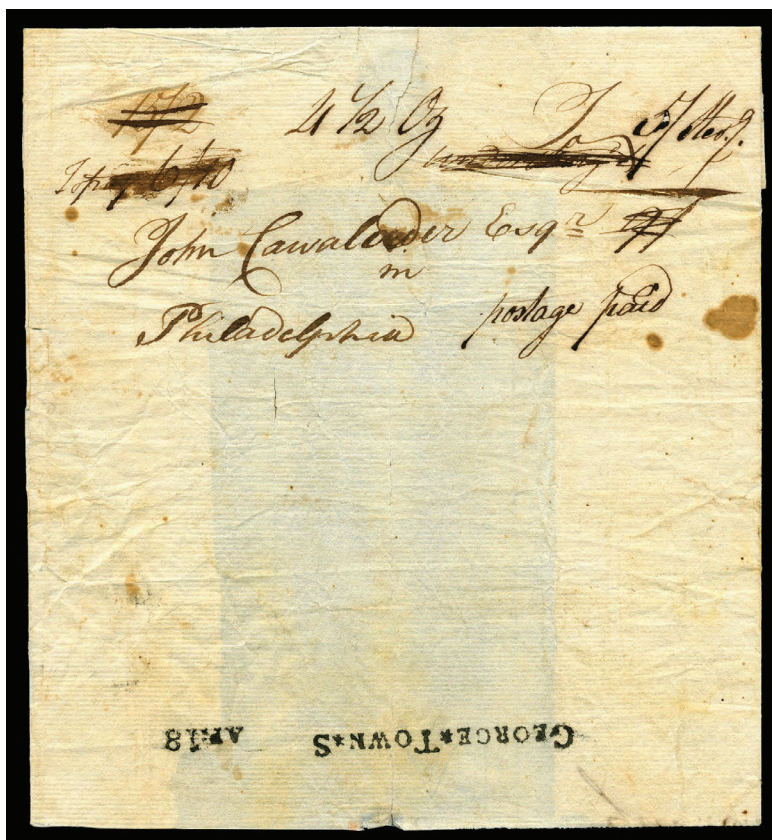


Figure 43

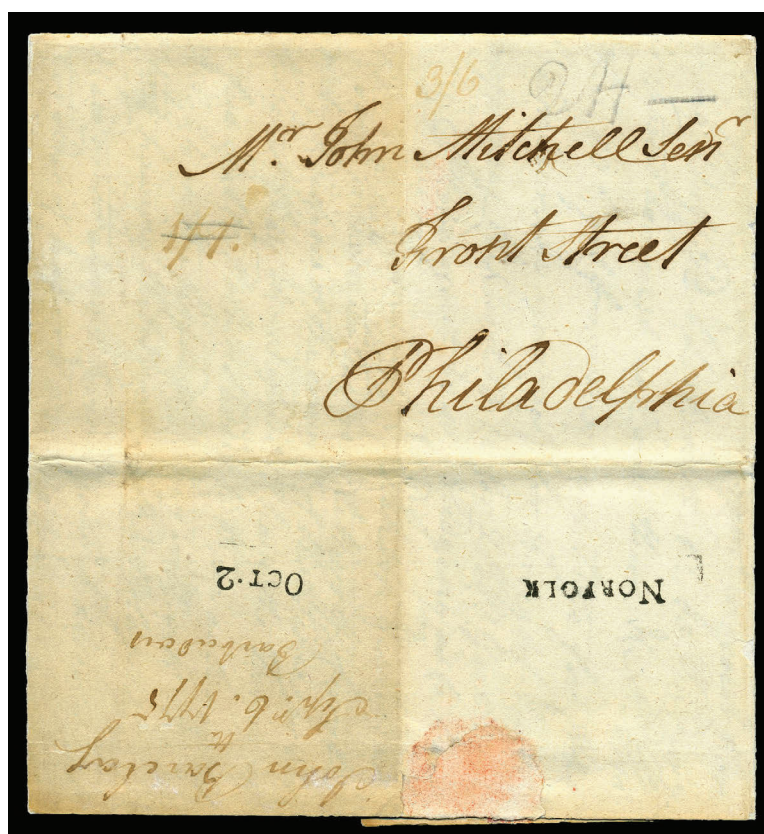


Figure 44

Frame 8

Transitional Period

By an Act of July 26, 1775, the Continental Congress created a Post. It was to run between Falmouth in Maine and Savanna, Georgia. William Goddard, riding on horseback, settled the Offices by early November. Ebenezer Hazard, Postmaster of New York, got his Commission September 21st. Postmarks from New York are known from early August. As a system, the Congressional Post dates from late October/early November 1775.

- Page 1. 1775 Newport May 26 to Boston, "Rd 6d" from the Rhode Island Provincial Committee Post, across the siege lines into Boston if allowed to pass, **unique. Figure 45.**
- Page 2. 1775 Baltimore Feb 18 to Philadelphia, rated 2.16 specie, Crown device and Post.
- 1775 Baltimore June 27 to Philadelphia, double weight, rated 1N4 Sterling, clearly Loyalist mail.
- Page 3. 1775 Boston May 21 to Portsmouth (last PO going North), rated 2dwt, 6d, letter mentions "arrived heare (in Boston) on Brigg Glasgow Packet," mail across siege lines from Occupied BOSTON, but going North by Mass. Provincial riders.
- 1775 Pool (Bournemouth) March 25 to Marblehead in New England, approx. 6-8 week voyage, text "this letter comes to Boston by Capt. White," "BOSTON Sh 6d," 5/ paid in Mass Old Tenor currency at 10:1 depreciation, mail across the lines and carried on under auspices of Massachusetts Committee. **Figure 46.**
- Page 4. 1775 Fredericksburg June 27 to Williamsburg, N6 over smudged 8, 2 functioning Posts in Virginia, Patriot Post via Hanover shorter than older Crown route via Hobb's Hole and Urbana.
- Page 5. 1775 Barbadoes July to Halifax Nova Scotia, "By Way of Rhode Island," Ship Triton intercepted by Privateer Blockade, "Opened by Order of the Committee of Safety for Machias Ja Lyon Ch M.," **unique censorship notation**, Machias in Down East Maine was base for Privateers screening Nova Scotia vessels. **Figure 47.**
- Page 6. 1775 Elizabethtown (New Jersey) August 7 to New Haven, John Holt operated a Private Post between May-August, campaigned for Congressional PM New York position, advertised office in New Haven, "NY 2dwt," **unique. Figure 48.**
- Page 7. 1775 Talbot Court House (Maryland) to Philadelphia, "Forwarded" via Chestertown, "P Post," N8 and 1/2 equivalent, **CHESTER *T unique. Figure 49.**
- Page 8. 1775 Newburyport to Philadelphia via newly opened Congressional PO of New York, letter entered Post at Mass Provincial office at Cambridge, "Camb," Headquarters of new American Army, 1/8 in Penn local paid for letter, **second earliest turquoise N*YORK. Figure 50.**
- 1775 New York to Newport, unrated, to Christopher Champlain who decamped to Halifax during the War, from Joshue De St. Croise, convicted of treason by New York Court.
- Page 9. 1775 Cambridge (Headquarters American Army surrounding Boston) to Beverly, free frank "On the Service of the United Colonies," Quartermaster General requisitions stores of HMS Nancy taken by Continental Schooner Lee.

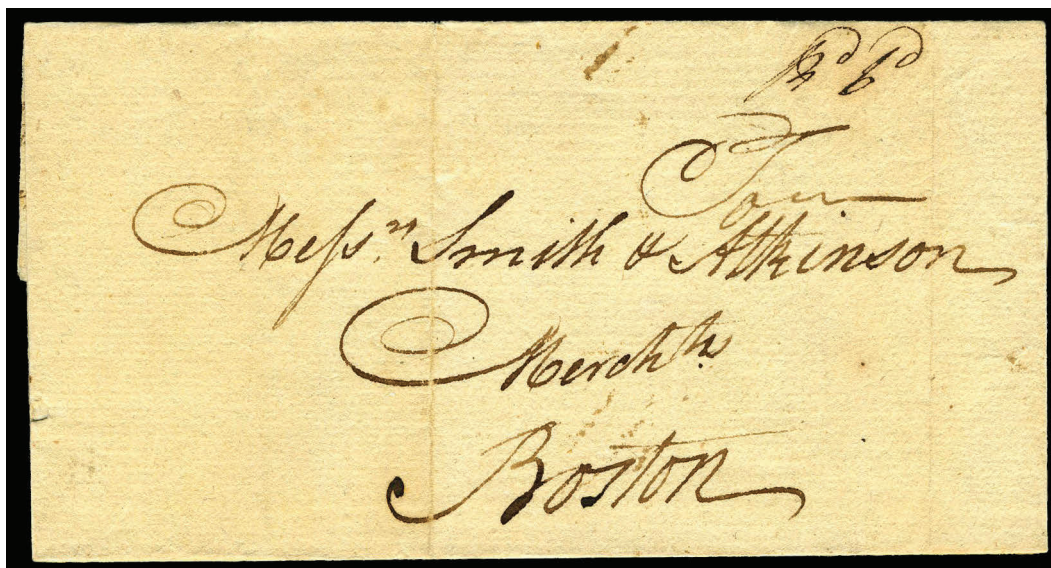


Figure 45

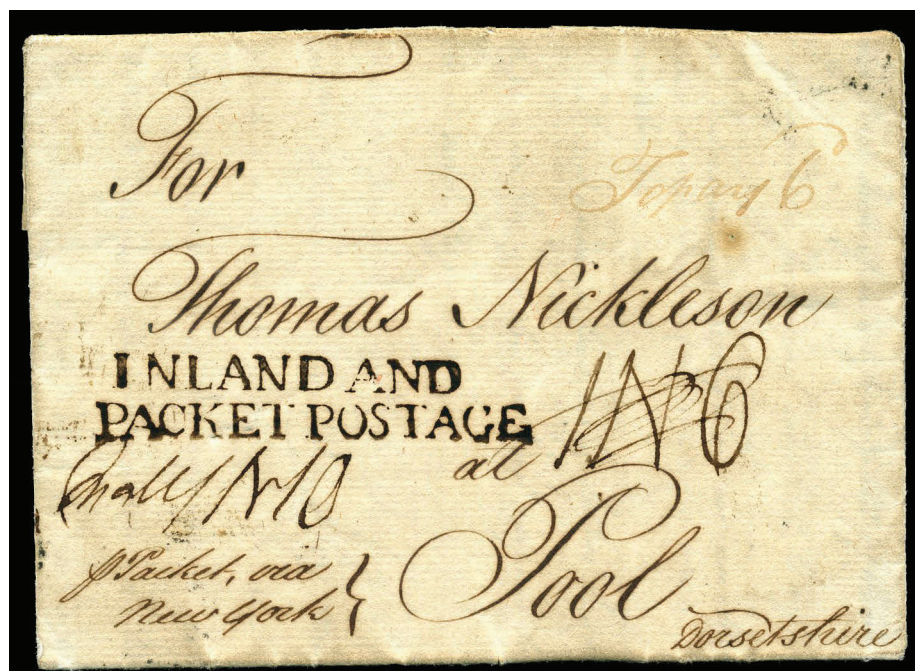


Figure 46



Figure 47

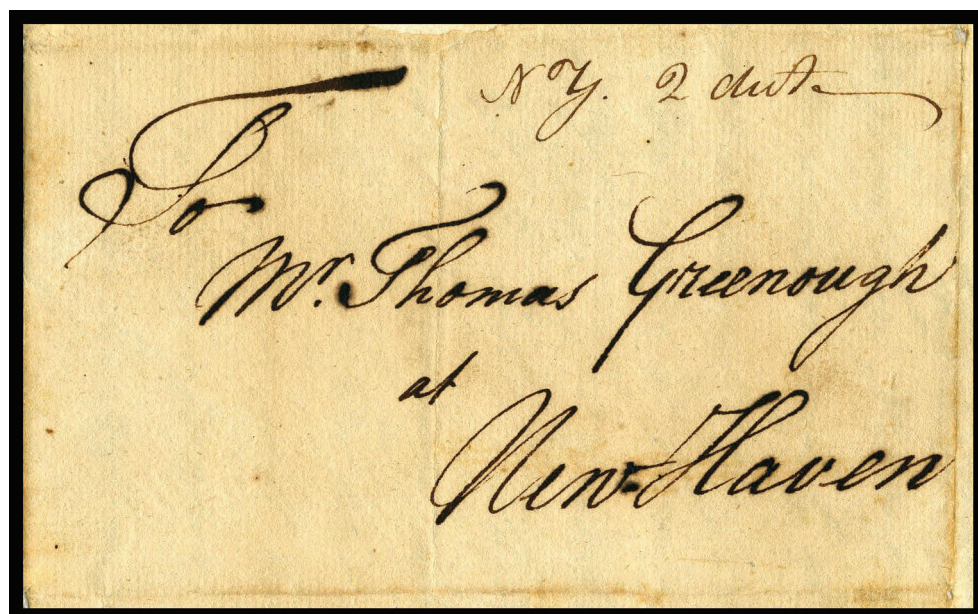


Figure 48



Figure 49 Front and Back Sides



Figure 50

Frame 9

Continental Congress Post

- Page 1. 1775 Cambridge October 18 to Philadelphia, Headquarters of Continental Army, Chief Post Office of Massachusetts Provincial Post, 1/ = 4dwt to Pennsylvania, 1/10 local, William Goddard Surveyor of the Post riding North to establish POs. PMG Franklin transferred operations of Colonies Post to Congress "at the end of this Quarter" (late October). **Figure 51.**
- 1775 Newburyport to Philadelphia, privately carried to Cambridge, 4dwt to Philadelphia.
- Page 2. 1775 Newburyport Oct. 31 to Philadelphia, double weight, "NP 1/6-1/2," rated in Mass local, still Mass Provincial Post.
- Page 3. 1775 Bristol (England) to New York via Philadelphia, Phil in red 2dwt + 16grs for Captain Curwen, newspapers report Feb 28 "Hope from Bristol entered in."
- 1776 Philadelphia to Providence via New Haven (stylish NH), Phila 4 (dwt).
- Page 4. 1776 Barnstable (Mass Committee of Safety Headquarters south of Cambridge) March 9 to John Hancock President of Continental Congress via New York, FREE, "Dorchester Hill taken last night, two men lost," Boston now fully encircled on land, bombardment continues, 8 days later British evacuate. **Figure 52.**
- 1776 Goshen New York to Durham Conn., "Postage/11d," in Conn. money collected.
- Page 5. 1776 Boston May 20 to Norwich (Conn.) rated 2.16 "Came to hand May 24p Post Postage 1/5," vivid yellow BOSTON, **one of 2 known**, confiscated Crown device, Congressional PO restored at Boston. **Figure 53.**
- 1775 New Haven to New York, 2dwt 1/ in NY local, N*HAVEN is confiscated Crown device in Congressional PO hands.
- Page 6. 1776 Sunderland (Vermont) February to Guilford (Conn.), "with Care" letter from Green Mountain Boys raising for Spring defense vs Burgoyne's Army out of Quebec, **earliest Vermont letter.**
- 1776 Boston to Portsmouth, red-orange BOSTON, Congressional PO at Boston. **Figure 54.**
- Page 7. 1776 Baltimore July to Philadelphia, POST PAID 2.16 in red serrated circle. **Figure 55.**
- Page 8. 1776 Salem Mass August to Westminster via VIZCAYA, Royal Spanish Post, on board a "neutral" cartel ship, 1/6 rated for Spain to England, **only example of such a routing.** **Figure 56.**
- Page 9. 1776 Docketed April 1776 to Colonel "Mad" Anthony Wayne at Fort Ticonderoga.
- 1776 New York August 19 to Norwich Conn., Col. Trumbull seeks more provisions, turquoise N*York **one of 2 known**, 11 days before NY PM Ebenezer Hazard ordered to evacuate, NY falls Sept 15.



Figure 51



Figure 52



Figure 53



Figure 53 Detail

Figure 54 Detail



Figure 54

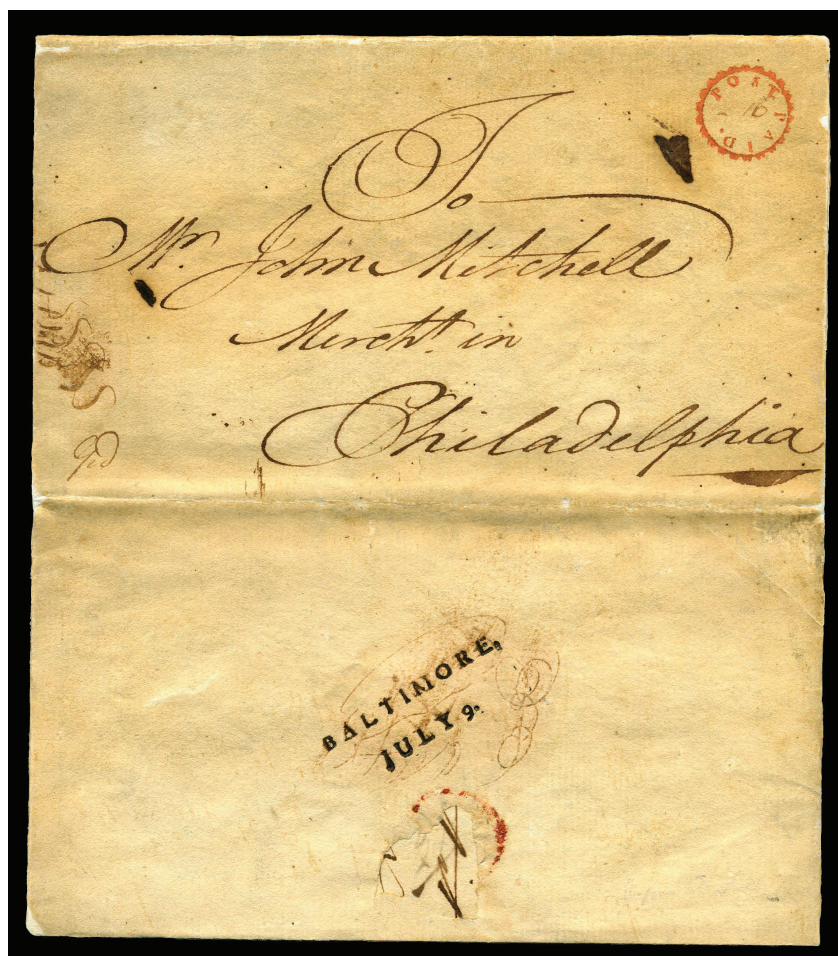


Figure 55

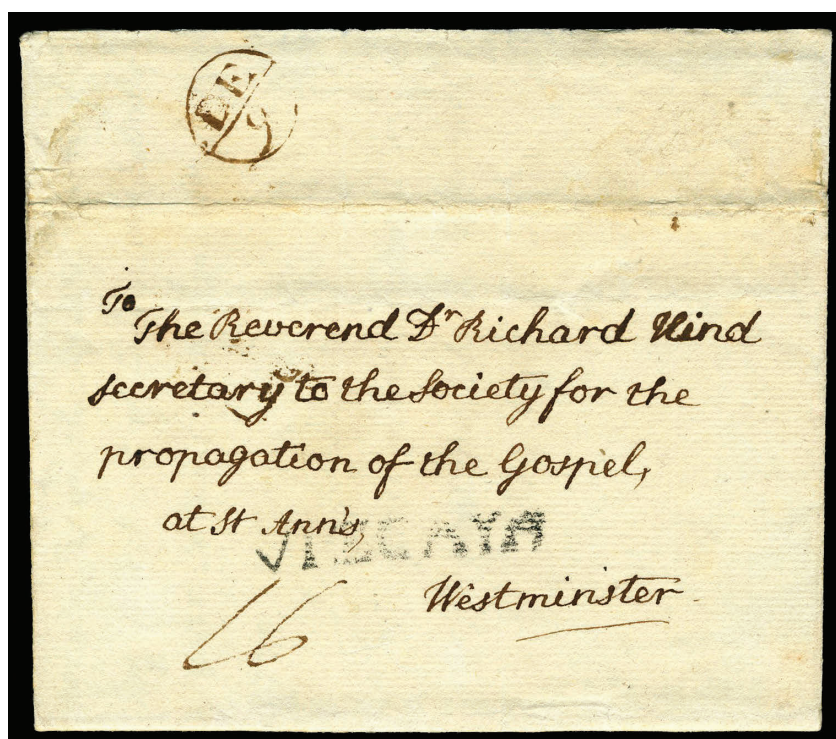


Figure 56

Frame 10

Continental Congress Post

The Continental currency, poorly backed, was subject to inflation as Congress continued to issue more dollars. Losses on the battlefield fueled the frenzy. Postal rates, in specie, reflected this monetary deterioration.

- Page 1. 1776 Philadelphia August to Perth Amboy, PHILA, free frank of BFreeFranklin as Postmaster General of the Continental Congress, much rarer than as Crown Deputy PMG, will leave for France October 26. **Figure 57.**
- Page 2. 1776 Charlestown (SC) to Philadelphia, 9dwt 8gr double weight, manuscript is **first marking of this Congressional PO. Figure 58.**
- 1777 Fredericksburg to American Camp New Jersies, 4dwt but "5/ pd by John Jamason."
- Page 3. 1777 Northern New Jersey to Fredericksburg, "Free" G. Washington franking, reports troops movements by British.
- 1779 Headquarters West Point to Boston, "On Public Service" G. Washington frank, asking for supplies from President of the State of Massachusetts. **Figure 59.**
- c.1781 Philadelphia to Newport, John Hancock frank as President of Congress, "Public Service," coordinating troop movements with French Fleet. **Figure 60.**
- Page 4. 1778 Baltimore to Lancaster (Penna), site of Congress as Philadelphia occupied Sept 1777 to June 1778, rates incr by 50%, 4dwt vs prior 2.16 for this distance. **Figure 61.**
- Page 5. 1778 Camp White Plains to Hillsborough NC, "Edenton...taken out of PO and forwarded," North Carolina Patriot Post.
- Page 6. 1779 Talbot Court House (June) to Philadelphia, rates doubled, 8dwt for earlier 2.16.
- 1779 Middletown (Conn.) to N. Windsor (NY), Army Hospital Headquarters, double weight, 16.
- Page 7. 1779 Charlestown December to Edenton (SC), 14dwt, small circle of Charlestown, 5 known.
- Page 8. 1780 Philadelphia to Navy Board Boston, further inflation, 20 x rates 80dwt vs 4. **Figure 62.**
- Page 9. 1780 Bordeaux to Boston, forwarded x 2, arr. Baltimore 12 May, 40 x, 213.6 in specie to Boston.
- 1780 Newburyport to Falmouth (Maine), Way letter, 40 x, 80dwt vs 2dwt in 1775.

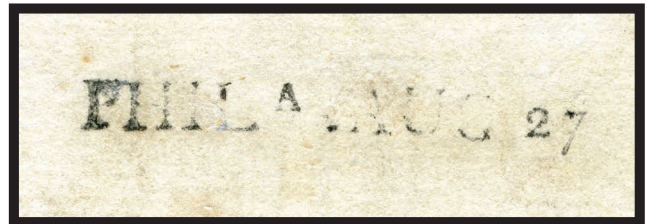
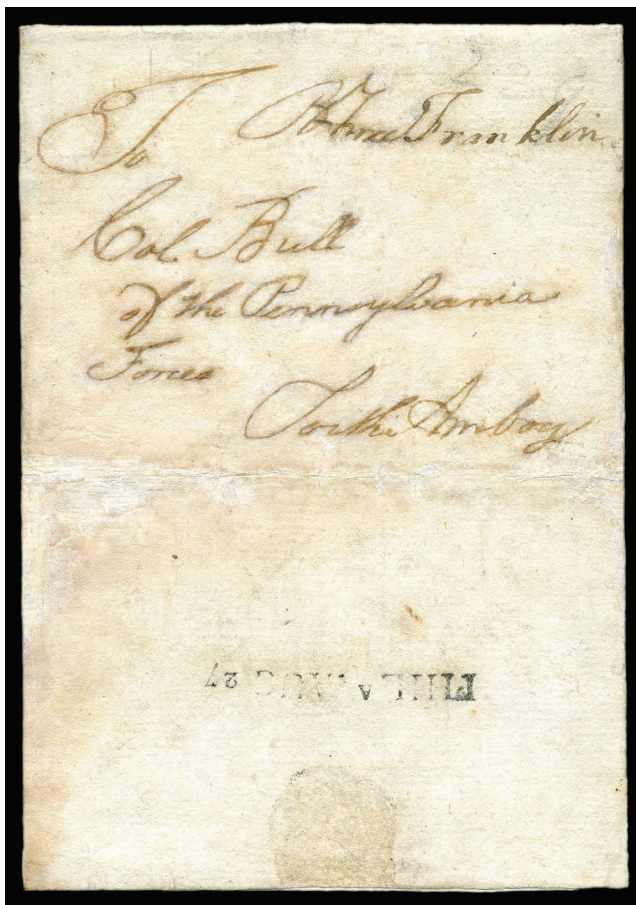


Figure 57 with Details



Figure 58

To On public Service
The Hon^{ble} Jeremiah Powell Esq^r
President of the State of
Massachusetts Bay.
G. Waples Esq^r Boston.

Figure 59
with
Detail

G. Waples Esq^r (Massachusetts Bay)

To Public Service
His Excellency
Commodore Destouche
Commanding the Fleet &c &c
John Hancock } Newport

Fig. 60
with
Detail

John Hancock }



Figure 61

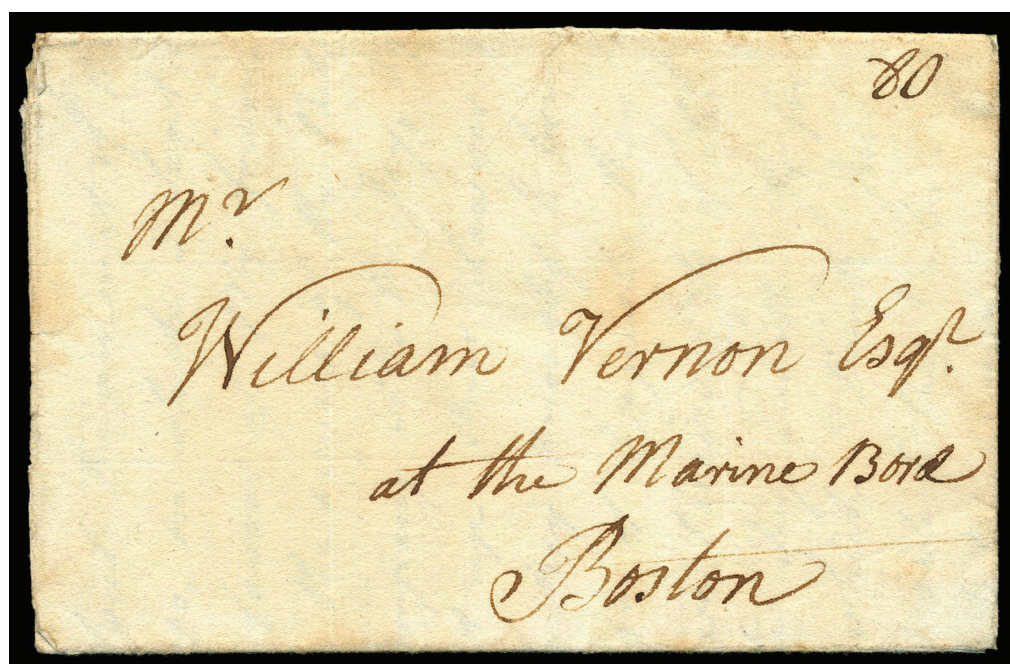


Figure 62

Frame 11

Congressional Post

- Page 1. 1780 Edenton (NC) to Philadelphia, 426.16 specie, J. Bryson, Asst. PMG to E. Hazard, "Recd 24 dolls for this letter," specie debt settled with Continental dollars, unusual marked as such on letter. **Figure 63.**
- 1780 Boston to Windham Conn. attempt at "Public Service" franking denied, rated 106.16, 1 Pound 16 shillings paid, probably Connecticut Lawful money, not Sterling.
- 1780 Fairfield Conn. to Poughkepsie, Way letter, 106.16 settled by "7 dolls," Continental.
- Page 2. 1780 St. Eustatia to Fredericksburg Virginia, Sh 240, 40 x Ship rate, **only known**, letter discusses second set of Ship's paper showing Dutch Registry avoiding British blockade.
- Page 3. 1780 Exeter NH to Morristown NJ, 40x, attempt to claim franking privilege denied, forwarded back to NH, 320 dwt for 301-400 miles each way, 640dwt ! Rec'd January 29, 1781. **Figure 64.**
- Page 4. 1781 Philadelphia January 12 to Baltimore, Pennsylvania and Maryland issue "paper specie," agree to redeem Continental dollar, Congress optimistically drops rates to 50% of 1775, failure financially, rates last only 10 weeks, 2.16 double weight 101-200 miles, **5 known.**
- 1781 Clermont (home of the Livingstons) January 29 to Boston, double, 3.8, 2 x 1.16 for 201-300 miles, "10 week tate."
- Page 5. 1781 Exeter to Philadelphia via New York Falmouth Packet Thynne, prepaid 1N4 inland and Packet fees, Shoemaker, Loyalist facilitates mail "across the lines" to Congressional PO at Trenton (NJ), "Trenn 1.8." and "Pd 2d Ster," rated by British Post, Crown Post in NY and Congressional Post, triple cooperation. **Figure 65.**
- Page 6. 1779 Pensacola West Florida to London, Ship letter via "Convoy arrived July 23, with Ostrich and Sylph Sloops of War, from West Florida. Cargoes said to be worth 50,000 Pounds," landed at Deal, double weight, 2 x (4p + 1 Captain) = 10, **6 known letters from West Florida. Figure 66.**
- 1779 Philadelphia to St. Eustatia, unrated privately carried, asks return mail "by six different conveyances," St. Eustatia blockaded 1776-1781.
- Page 7. 1782 Havanna to Boston via Philadelphia, "P JULY * 8," quadruple, 1oz. Sh 16.16, rates back to normal after success at Yorktown, French silver Livres backing Colonial currency. **Figure 67.**
- Page 8. 1778 Falmouth England to Occupied Philadelphia, quadruple, 1oz., 4/ Packet Grantham arr. NY 12 days after British left Philadelphia, **earliest mail into liberated City.**
- 1779 Occupied New York to Philadelphia, "+" felt to be a censor marking.
- 1781 Yorktown to Gov. Neilson of Virginia, "By a Flag of Truce," Cornwallis free frank. **Figure 68.**
- Page 9. 1778 Occupied New York to Long Island, "On His Majesty's Service," re: confiscating rebel farms.
- 1779 Occupied NY to Long Island, "On His Majesty's Service," "p Express," re: foraging needs.

Rec^d 24 Dols
 for this letter
 J. Bryson
 Joseph Bullock } Esq^s
 Sharp Delany }
 Lottery Office
 Philadelphia

426-16

Figure 63

The Post Master of Portsmouth
 is desired to forward this letter
 to Col. Peabody who of late was
 a member of Congress from your state.
 Fred. King
 Secy.

on public service - 320
 forward - 320
 640

Col. Nathaniel Peabody
 Now in New Hampshire
 Morristown
 State of New Jersey

Recd. & forwarded by
 the Post Office at
 Portsmouth N.H.
 Jan 29 1811

Figure 64



Figure 65 Front and Back Sides



Figure 66 with Docketing



Figure 67

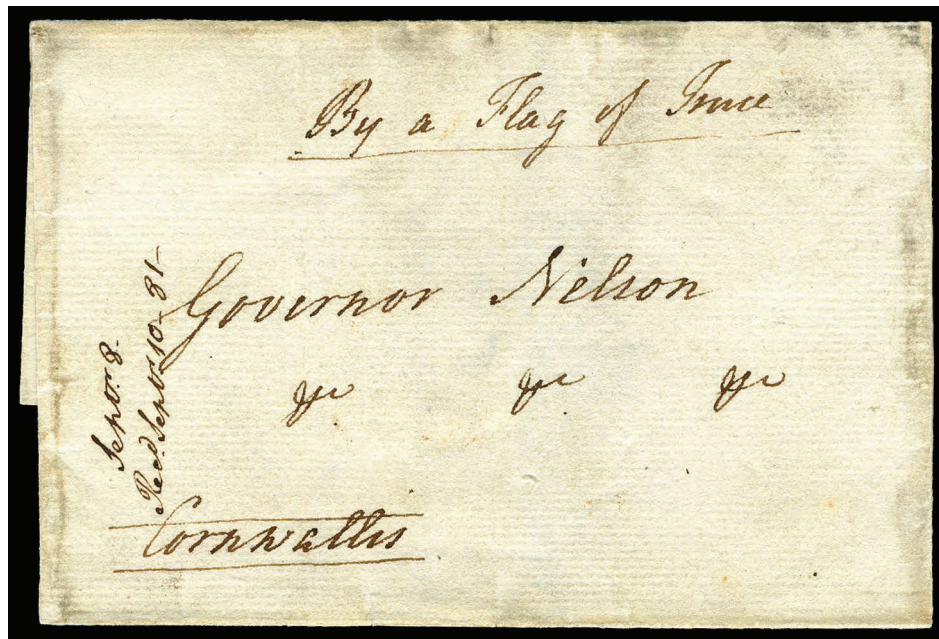


Figure 68

Frame 12

Occupation

- Page 1. 1775 Boston December 14 to Somersetshire, letter on board "Tartar, Man of War, landing in Portsmouth, from Boston after a fine passage of 21 days," 4p inland, Colonel Cleaveland writes, "our accounts are unfavorable, the rebels have made themselves master of two forts St. John and Chambree."
- Page 2. 1776 Crown Point (Fort on Lake Champlain) October 20 to Edinburgh, Burgoyne's Northern Campaign, "I have heard Burgoyne sets off for Montreal. All letters with Him," 6p London to Edinburgh.
- Page 3. 1777 Skeenesborough (Whitehall NY) July 12 to Edinburgh, Northern Campaign letter, "goes with dispatches," Portsmouth Ship letter, double, 2 x 3p + 1p Captain = 7, 2 x 6p to Edinburgh, Inall 1N7. **Figure 69.**
- Page 4. 1777 Camp at Fort Miller (near Ticonderoga) August 27 to Edinburgh, Soldier's letter, "The surest way of writing me is Quebec, but if we can open up a communication with New York, that way will be much shorter," "3 from Portsmouth," 6p to Edinburgh, "Inall 9," Quebec double circle. **Figure 70.**
- Page 5. 1780 Lancaster (POW Camp) to Edinburgh via Occupied NY Falmouth Packet Speedwell, 1N, Inall 1N6 to Edinburgh.
- 1778 New York, Occupied, to London, double weight, "P Bedford Man of War," Portsmouth, 2 x 3p + 1p Captain = 7. **Figure 71.**
- Page 6. 1781 Charlestown (Occupied May 12 1780 to December 14, 1782) to London on Chas. Town-Caribbean-Falmouth Packet Dashwood, 1N, black CHARLES/TOWN Crown mark reappears. **Figure 72.**
- 1781 Charlestown to London, triple, 3N on Packet Speedwell via St. Kitts, CHARLES/TOWN.
- Page 7. 1781 Charlestown to Liverpool, double, Ship letter, Derby Mercury reports "a large fleet is arrived at Kinsale under the convoy of Galatea and Camilla...46 sail in all, from Charlestown, deeply laden, some with prize tobacco," to Dublin, Holyhead and Liverpool, "1N2."
- 1782 Charlestown June 10, 1782 to Edinburgh, Packet Grenville departed Falmouth Feb 11, taken by Privateer Franklin off Madiera, taken to Chesapeake, recaptured by HMS Garland, taken to CHARLESTOWN, picking up mail, arr. Plymouth Aug 8, rated 2N but FREE for Earl of Loudon, 1N Scottish. **Figure 73.**
- Page 8. 1781 Savanna to Charlestown, rare mail between Occupied Cities, probably carried privately via ship, SAVANNAH **unique.** **Figure 74.**
- Page 9. 1782 Occupied New York to Kingston Jamaica via MONTEGO/BAY, Captain 1p, 3p inland.
- 1782 St. Augustine East Florida to Governor and Commander in Chief of the State of Georgia Savannah, wrapper, "On His Majesty's Service," from Governor Tonym to Governor Martin, cooperating on lawlessness along their border, many Floridians fleeing to Halifax as Florida returning to Spain.



Figure 69 Above



Figure 70



Figure 71

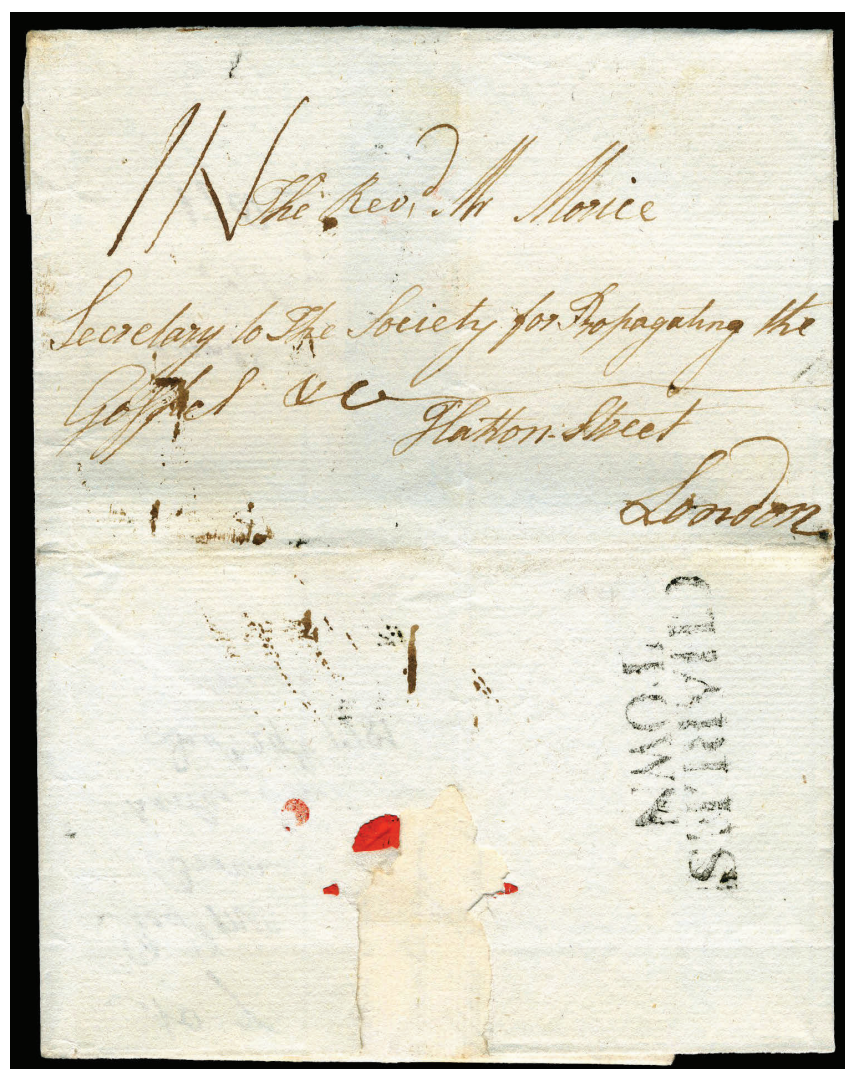


Figure 72



Figure 73



Figure 74

