

**"AMERICA-ENGLAND"  
SHIP-LETTERS 1735-1796 ...  
MAJOR BRITISH-REALM PORTS-OF-ENTRY**



**LONDON SHIP LRE**  
(1783-1797)

15 MARCH 1795  
Double-Strike,  
Storm-Damaged  
Missionary Mail  
Ship-Letter.  
"Boston-London".  
Port-of-Entry:  
London  
Two Pence  
Single-Sheet  
(1786-1794)  
+  
One Penny  
Captain's Gratuity

**BACKGROUND:**

The British "Ordinance of 1657" and subsequent "Act of 1660" set forth that letter mail brought to the British Isles by private arrangement with a ship's captain, by personal conveyance or by courier were subject to postage on arrival in the country.

In the 1760's, the British Post Office issued ship-letter handstamps to postmasters at ports throughout the British Isles having the purpose of identifying worldwide-mail as "Ship Letters" entering the country at the port named for inland postage on a mileage-rate structure to be assessed & collected from the letter's recipient.

**EXHIBIT:**

This one-frame postal history exhibit shows 18<sup>th</sup> Century America-to-England "Ship Letter" Mail transiting major or primary British-realm ports-of-entry, as researched & determined by the exhibitor. "Falmouth" Packet-Ship Mail excluded.

- I. FORERUNNER MAIL
- II. ENGLAND..  
Brighton, Bristol, Cowes, Dartmouth, Deal, Dover, Exeter, Hastings, Liverpool, London (18th-Page), Plymouth, Portsmouth, Weymouth
- III. SCOTLAND.. Greenock
- IV. IRELAND.. Dublin

**TEXT COLOR-CODING:**

Black: General Information  
Blue: Important annotative information.  
Blue-matted examples indicate particular importance & scarcity.  
Maroon: Postal Rate Information

**I. FORERUNNER SHIP – COMMERCIAL MAIL** 1735  
(Before 1760)

Prior to 1760, British post postmasters had not been issued handstamps to identify the specific British port of entry for mail carried by an arriving ship and its captain.  
One potential method of determining the potential port-of-entry was by the rate applicable as marked on the mail.  
**THIS EXAMPLE WAS RATED AT FIVE PENCE (4 PENCE + OVER 80 MILES TO LONDON + ONE PENNY CAPTAIN'S GRATUITY), WITH MOST PROBABLY "PLYMOUTH" AS PORT OF CALL.**



2 AUGUST 1735

Folded-single-page commercial letter, from "Robert & Peter Livingston Company", New York, to "Storke & Gainsborough Merchants", London, advising of shipment & manifest contents ("... 52 barrels butter, 144 casks flour...") aboard first sailing of the "Charming Molly" with Captain John Harris, 18-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark (Reverse)  
"20 August (1735)"

5 Pence Collect...

(1711-1745)

4 Pence Inland postage from Plymouth to London (Over 80 miles)

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

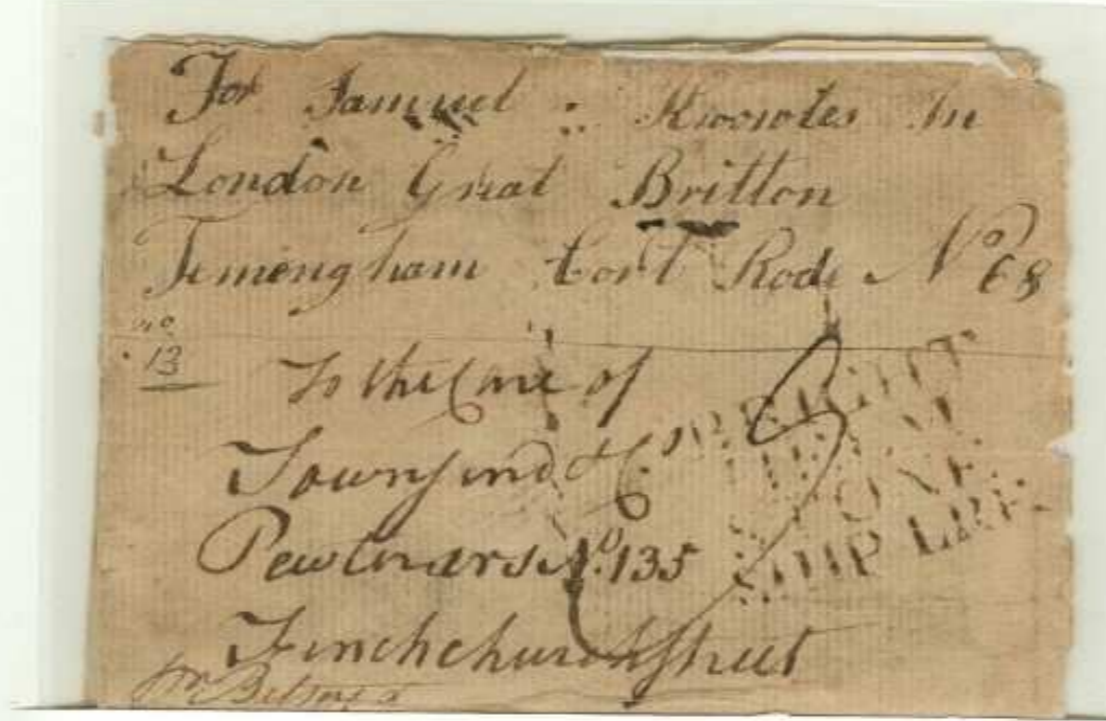
**II. ENGLAND..**

**"BRIGHT HELM STONE (Brighton) SHIP LRE"**  
(1769 – 1798)

Located in the Province of East Sussex in southern England on the English Channel, circa 50 miles south of London: BRIGHTON HAD NO HARBOR BUT WAS A FISHING VILLAGE FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS.



**BRIGHT HELM STONE SHIP LRE**



27 MARCH 1791

Folded-letter, written by "William Knowles" of Rhode Island, sent to "Samuel Knowles" at London, endorsed by captain of the Ship "Betsey", 50-day transit time.

Arrival Mark (Reverse)  
"16 May (1791)"

Endorsement on Reverse by "S. Knowles" -  
"Gone to America but not known where."

9 Pence Collect...

2x 4 Pence Double-Sheet Inland Postage from Brighton to London (Two post stages & 80 miles)

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**"BRISTOL SHIP LRE"**  
(1769 – 1795)

Located in the Province of Avon, in southwestern central England at the confluence of Avon & Frome Rivers, BRISTOL WAS CHARTERED IN 1155 and an early commerce center and port from which John Cabot, the explorer, set sail in 1497 in search of a route to Asia.



**BRISTOL SHIP LRE**



10 NOVEMBER 1769

Folded-letter, written by "Samuel Pleasants" of Philadelphia, endorsed by Captain Young of "The Challenge", published ship arrival ("Bristol Journal") on 12 December 1769, sent to "James Gordon", merchant, at London, 36-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark (Reverse)  
"16 December (1769)"

5 Pence Collect...

4 Pence Inland from Bristol to London

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

First year of application of ship-letter handstamp on Bristol arriving-mail.

**"COWES SHIP LRE s"**  
(1769 – 1824)

Located on the Isle of Wight in the English Channel, west-southwest of Portsmouth; LAST PORT FROM WHICH MISSIONARY JOHN WESLEY DEPARTED FOR AMERICA IN 1735; today being a small yacht seaport.



**COWES SHIP LRE s**



4 APRIL 1791

Folded-letter, written by "Christopher Fairclou" of Charlestown ("Boston"), Massachusetts, sent to "R. Green", merchant, of London, endorsed by Captain Hill of the Ship "Amelia", 47-day transit time.

Arrival Mark (Reverse)  
"23 May (1791)"

6 Pence Collect...

5 Pence Inland postage from Cowes to London (80-150 miles)

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**"DARTMOUTH SHIP LRE"**  
(1774 – 1815)

Located in the Province of Devon, in Southwestern England, on the Dart River about 25 miles east of Plymouth, DARTMOUTH, A DEEP-WATER PORT, WAS SAILING POINT FOR THE CRUSADES OF 1147 & 1190 AD.



**DARTMOUTH SHIP LRE**



-- DECEMBER 1793

Folded-letter, probably written at Boston, based on Devon port location and route for America-origin ships, sent to London.

Arrival Mark (Reverse)  
"30 December (1793)"

7 Pence Collect...

6 Pence Inland 80-150 Mile-Rate (from Dartmouth to London) +

1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**"DEAL SHIP LRE"**  
(1767 – 1788)

Located in the Province of Kent in southeastern England on the Strait of Dover, known for its safe anchorage, REPUTED LANDING PLACE OF ROMAN GENERAL JULIUS CAESAR IN 55 A.D.



**DEAL SHIP LRE**



6 MAY 1775

Folded-letter, written by "Abel Janel & John Thompson" of Philadelphia, endorsed by ship's "Captain Falconer", sent to "Thomas Nicklason", at Poole, Dorsetshire, mentioning in letter... "public unrest and possibility of the port being closed" 351-day transit time.

Arrival Mark (Reverse)  
"22 April (1776)"

6 Pence Collect...

5 Pence Inland postage from Deal to Poole (over 80 miles)

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**"DOVER SHIP LRE"**  
(1765 – 1784)

Located in the Province of Kent, in Southeastern England, on the Strait of Dover about 47 miles southeast of London, DOVER WAS ALREADY AN IMPORTANT LANDING PLACE IN ROMAN TIMES.



**DOVER SHIP LRE**



5 OCTOBER 1767

Folded-letter, written by "Mr. Taylor" of Providence, Rhode Island, endorsed by ship's "Captain Newall", sent to the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts" at Westminster (London), 64-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark (Reverse)  
"8 December (1767)"

5 Pence Collect...

4 Pence Inland from Dover to London (Less than 80 miles)

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**"EXETER SHIP LRE"**  
(1768 – 1792)

Located in the Province of Devon, in Southwestern England, on the Exe River about 37 miles northeast of Plymouth, EXETER WAS ALREADY A TRADING CENTER AND FORT IN ROMAN TIMES.



**EXETER SHIP LRE**



23 SEPTEMBER 1768

Folded-letter, written by Rev. Mr. Hobart Briggs, missionary of the "Carolina Colony", sent to London, 75-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark (Reverse)  
"7 December (1768)"

5 Pence Collect...

4 Pence Inland from Exeter to London +

1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

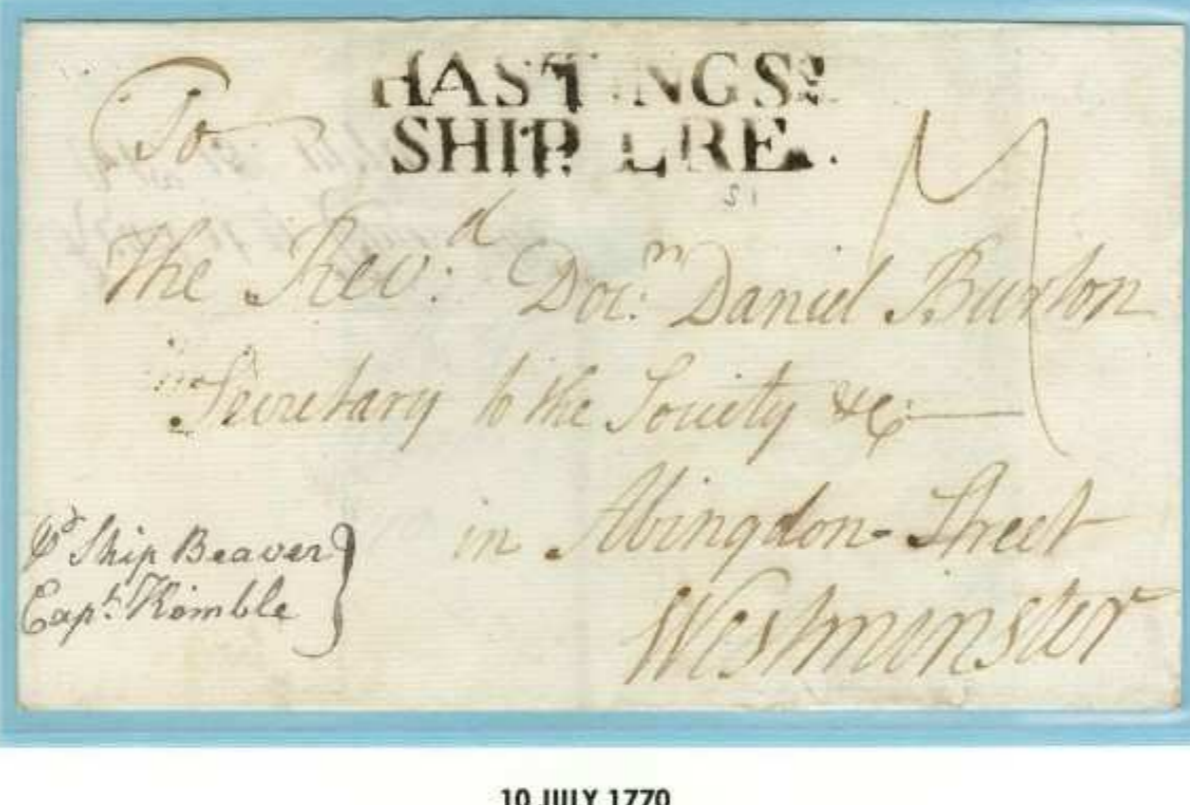
First year of application of ship-letter handstamp on Exeter arriving mail.

**"HASTINGS SHIP LRE"**  
(1770 – 1784)

Located in the Province of East Sussex in southern England on the English Channel at the Strait of Dover; HASTINGS WAS THE SCENE OF THE "BATTLE OF HASTINGS" ON 14 OCTOBER 1066 IN WHICH "WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR", DUKE OF NORMANDY, DEFEATED ENGLISH KING HAROLD II.



**HASTINGS SHIP LRE**



10 JULY 1770

Folded-letter, written by "Mr. Samuel Seaburg" of Westchester, New York, sent to "Rev. Dr. Daniel Burton", Secretary of the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts", at Westminster ("London"), endorsed by Captain Kimble of the Ship "Beaver", 53-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark (Reverse)  
"1 September (1770)"

7 Pence Collect...

2x 3 Pence Double-Sheet Inland Postage from Hastings to London (80 miles)

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

Earliest Known Hastings Ship-Letter; Five Years Earlier than Previous Recorded Example.

**"LIVERPOOL SHIP LRE"**  
(1766 – 1789)

Located in the Province of Merseyside, in northwestern England on the estuary of the Mersey River, LIVERPOOL RECEIVED ITS CHARTER IN 1207, and developed into a major port commencing in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.



**LIVERPOOL SHIP LRE**



14 JUNE 1769

Folded-letter, written by "William Champs" in Virginia, endorsed by Captain Zwamy of "The Medford", sent to "Richard Smith Esq." at London, 84-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark (Reverse)  
"6 September (1769)"

9 Pence Collect...

8 Pence Double-Weight (containing) Inland Postage from Liverpool to London (4 Pence + Over 80 miles)

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**"PLYMOUTH SHIP LRE"**  
(1766 – 1769)

Located in the Province of Devon, in Southwestern England, PLYMOUTH WAS CHARTERED IN 1439 and was the last port of call in the British Isles before the "Mayflower" sailed to America in 1620



**PLYMOUTH SHIP LRE**



30 JANUARY 1769

"Reverend Sayre" of Newburgh, New York, written folded-letter, sent to the "Venerable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts" at Westminster (London), 54-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark (Reverse)  
"24 March (1769)"

5 Pence Collect...

4 Pence Inland from Plymouth to London + 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

Reverend Sayre... Pro-British physician & churchman later imprisoned by the Revolutionary Forces and released after he had cured an outbreak of dysentery while a prisoner.

**"PORTSMOUTH SHIP LRE"**  
(1770 – 1777)

Located in the Province of Hampshire, in southern England on island of Portsea in English Channel, circa 45 miles southwest of London, PORTSMOUTH WAS FOUNDED & CHARTERED IN 1194 and became a naval dockyard in 1496.



**PORTSMOUTH SHIP LRE**



6 DECEMBER 1769

"Alexander Stewart" of Newbern, North Carolina, written folded-letter, sent to the "Society for Propagating the Gospel" at Westminster (London), endorsed by ship's "Captain Elliot", 62-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark (Reverse)  
"6 February (1770)"

7 Pence Collect...

2x 3 Pence Double Inland Rate (containing) under 80 mile rate) from Portsmouth to London

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

First year of application of ship-letter handstamp on Portsmouth inbound mail.

**"WEYMOUTH SHIP LRE"**  
(1768 – 1797)

Located in the Province of Dorset, in southern England at the mouth of the River Wey on Weymouth Bay of the English Channel, west-southwest of Southampton, WEYMOUTH BECAME A CHARTERED BOROUGH IN 1252



**WEYMOUTH SHIP LRE**



17 MARCH 1770

"Jones & Richardson" of Charlestown ("Boston") Massachusetts, written folded-letter, sent to "Langston Dixon" at London, endorsed by ship's "Captain Mallison", 44-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark (Reverse)  
"2 May (1770)"

9 Pence Collect...

2x 4 Pence Double-Sheet Inland Rate (over 80 miles) from Weymouth to London

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**III. SCOTLAND..**

**"GREENOCK SHIP LRE"**  
(1796-1798)

Located in Kentonshire, southwestern Scotland, 44 miles east of Edinburgh, 25 miles NW of Glasgow, on the south shore of the Firth of Clyde, GREENOCK HARBOR WAS COMPLETED IN 1710.



16 DECEMBER 1796

Folded-letter, written by "J.P. DeLuchy" of Philadelphia, sent to "Philip Gavey Esq." at London, 33-day transit time.

Arrival Mark (Reverse)  
"18 January (1797)"

1 Shilling/1 Penny Collect... (1794 Scottish Rate)

2x 6 Pence (Double-Weight) above 150 miles

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

First year of use of "Ship's Letter" Handstamp.

**IV. IRELAND..**

**"DUBLIN SHIP LETTER"**  
(1795)

Located in eastern Ireland at the mouth of the Liffey River on the Irish Sea, DUBLIN WAS FOUNDED IN 1200 AD to become important in commerce and shipbuilding.



**DUBLIN SHIP LETTER**



1 JULY 1795

Folded-letter, written by "J. Cockin" of Philadelphia, route-endorsed "via Dublin", sent to "Mrs. Cockin", his mother, at Bristol, England, 31-day transit time.

The contents describes the writer's recent arrival in the United States from Jamaica after an eventful voyage during which his ship was boarded by sailors of a French privateer "of twelve guns"...

"I told them I was an American & supercargo upon which they all came up to me and shook me by the hand saying American... and only just looked in my chest... two days after we were brought... by two Spanish armed bigs from the Havannah..."

Arrival Dublin-Bishop-Mark (Reverse)  
"1 August (1795)"

1 Shilling & 1 Penny Collect +

4 Pence Ireland + 8 Pence England

+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**'AMERICA-ENGLAND'**  
**SHIP-LETTERS 1735-1796 ...**  
**MAJOR BRITISH-REALM PORTS-OF-ENTRY**



**LONDON  
SHIP-LETTER**

(1783-1797)

15 MARCH 1795

Double-Strike,  
Storm-Damaged  
Missionary Mail  
Ship-Letter.

'Boston-London'.

Port-of-Entry:  
London

Two Pence  
Single-Sheet  
(1784-1796)

+

One Penny  
Captain's Gratuity

**BACKGROUND:**

The British 'Ordinance of 1657' and subsequent 'Act of 1660' set forth that letter mail brought to the British Isles by private arrangement with a ship's captain, by personal conveyance or by courier were subject to postage on arrival in the country.

In the 1760's, the British Post Office issued ship-letter handstamps to postmasters at ports throughout the British Isles having the purpose of identifying worldwide-mail as "Ship Letters" entering the country at the port named for inland postage on a mileage-rate structure to be assessed & collected from the letter's recipient.

**EXHIBIT:**

This one-frame postal history exhibit shows 18<sup>th</sup> Century America-to-England 'Ship Letter' Mail transiting major or primary British-realm ports-of-entry, as researched & determined by the exhibitor. 'Falmouth' Packet-Ship Mail excluded.

- I. FORERUNNER MAIL
- II. ENGLAND..  
Brighton, Bristol, Cowes, Dartmouth, Deal, Dover,  
Exeter, Hastings, Liverpool, London (Title-Page),  
Plymouth, Portsmouth, Weymouth
- III. SCOTLAND.. Greenock
- IV. IRELAND.. Dublin

**TEXT COLOR-CODING:**

- Black:** General Information  
**Blue:** Important annotative information.  
Blue-matted examples indicate particular importance & scarcity.  
**Maroon:** Postal Rate Information

# I. FORERUNNER SHIP – COMMERCIAL MAIL

1735

(Before 1760)

Prior to 1760, British port postmasters had not been issued handstamps to identify the specific British port of entry for mail carried by an arriving ship and its captain.

One potential method of determining the potential port-of-entry was by the rate applicable as marked on the mail.

**THIS EXAMPLE WAS RATED AT FIVE PENCE  
(4 PENCE = OVER 80 MILES TO LONDON  
+ ONE PENNY CAPTAIN'S GRATUITY),  
WITH MOST PROBABLY 'PLYMOUTH' AS PORT OF CALL**



2 AUGUST 1735

Folded-single-page commercial letter,  
from "Robert & Peter Livingston Company", New York,  
to "Storke & Gainsborough Merchants", London, advising of shipment & manifest contents  
("...52 firkins butter, 166 casks flower...")  
aboard first sailing of the "Charming Molly" with Captain John Harris.  
18-day transit time.

Arrival Bishop Mark  
(Reverse)  
"20 August (1735)"

5 Pence Collect...  
(1711-1765)

4 Pence Inland postage from Plymouth to London  
(Over 80 miles)

+

1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

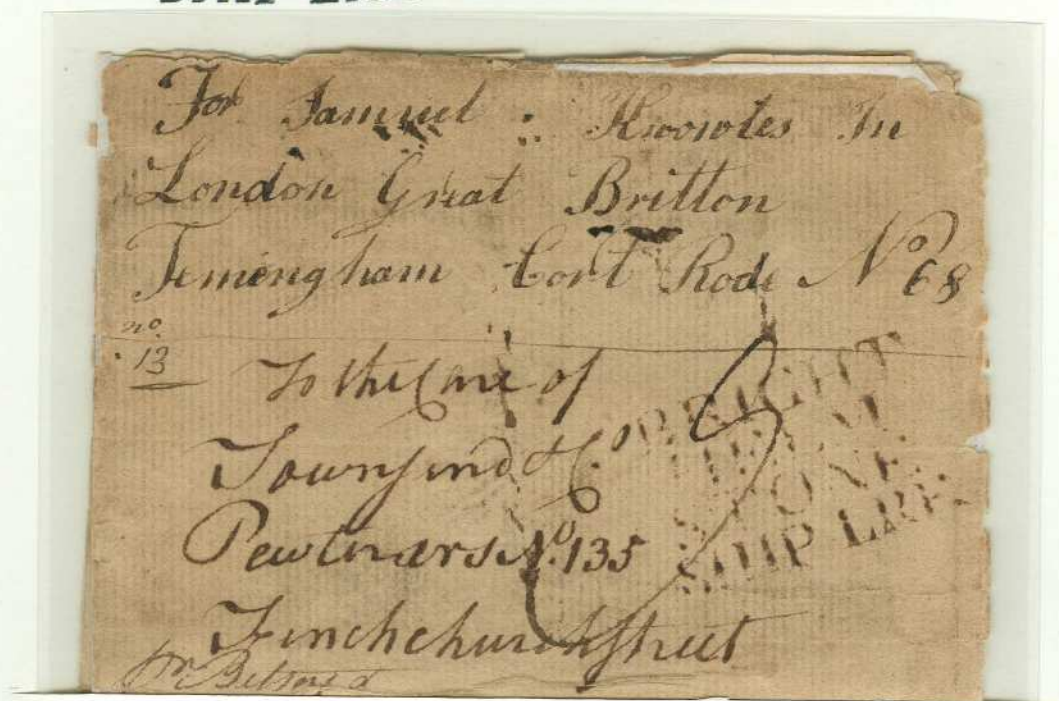
## II. ENGLAND..

### "BRIGHT HELM STONE SHIP LRE" (1769 - 1798)

Located in the Province of East Sussex in southern England  
on the English Channel, circa 50 miles south of London;  
**BRIGHTON HAD NO HARBOR BUT WAS A FISHING VILLAGE  
FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS.**



### BRIGHT HELM STONE SHIP LRE



27 MARCH 1791

Folded-letter, written by "William Knowles" of Rhode Island,  
sent to "Samuel Knowles" at London,  
endorsed by captain of the Ship "Betsey". 50-day transit time.

Arrival Mark  
(Reverse)

"16 May (1791)"

Endorsement on Reverse  
by "S. Kinweg" ..

"Gone to America but not known where."

9 Pence Collect...

2x 4 Pence Double-Sheet Inland Postage from Brighton to London  
(Two post stages & 80 miles)

+

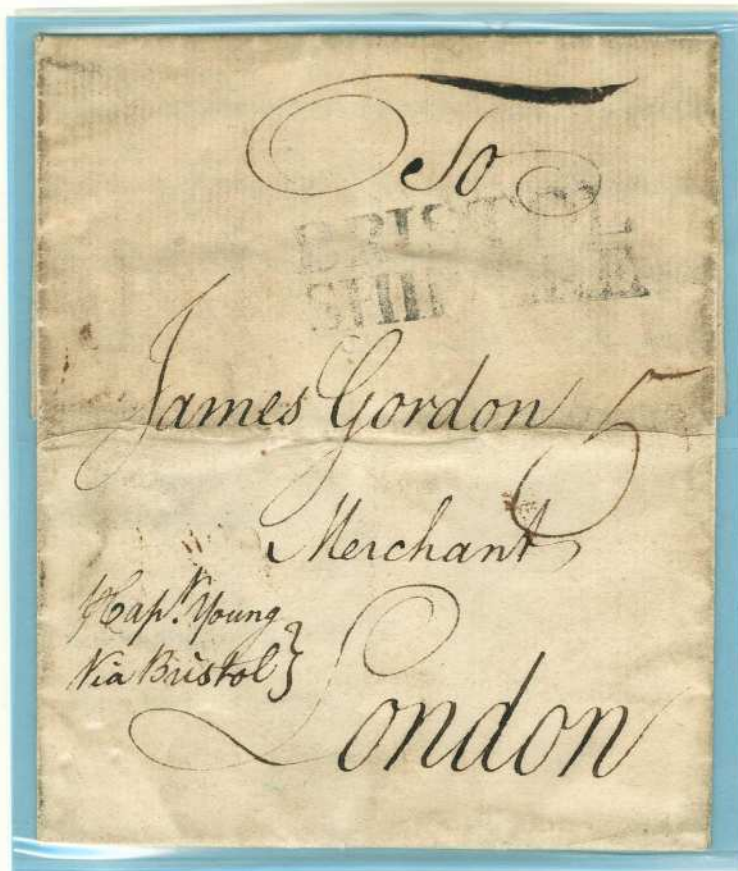
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**"BRISTOL  
SHIP LRE"  
(1769 – 1775)**

Located in the Province of Avon, in southwestern central England at the confluence of Avon & Frome Rivers, **BRISTOL WAS CHARTERED IN 1155** and an early commerce center and port from which John Cabot, the explorer, set sail in 1497 in search of a route to Asia.



**BRISTOL  
SHIP LRE**



**10 NOVEMBER 1769**

Folded-letter, written by "Samuel Pleasants" at Philadelphia, endorsed by Captain Young of 'The Chalkley', published ship arrival ("Bristol Journal") on 12 December 1769, sent to "James Gordon", merchant, at London. 36-day transit time.

**Arrival Bishop Mark  
(Reverse)  
"16 December (1769)"**

**5 Pence Collect...  
4 Pence Inland from Bristol to London  
+  
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

**First year of application of ship-letter handstamp on Bristol arriving-mail.**

**"COWES  
SHIP LRE s"  
(1769 – 1824)**

Located on the Isle of Wight in the English Channel, west-southwest of Portsmouth;  
**LAST PORT FROM WHICH MISSIONARY 'JOHN WESLEY' DEPARTED FOR AMERICA IN 1735;**  
today being a small yacht seaport.

**COWES  
SHIP LRE<sup>s</sup>**



**4 APRIL 1791**

Folded-letter, written by "Christopher Fairfoot" of Charlestown ("Boston"), Massachusetts, sent to "R. Green", merchant, at London, endorsed by Captain Hill of the Ship "Amelia". 49-day transit time.

**Arrival Mark  
(Reverse)**

**"23 May (1791)"**

**6 Pence Collect...**

**5 Pence Inland postage from Cowes to London  
(80-150 miles)**

**+**

**1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

**“DARTMOUTH  
SHIP LRE”  
(1774 – 1815)**

Located in the Province of Devon, in  
Southwestern England, on the Dart River  
about 25 miles east of Plymouth,  
**DARTMOUTH, A DEEP-WATER PORT,  
WAS SAILING POINT FOR THE CRUSADES OF  
1147 & 1190 AD.**

**DARTMOUTH  
SHIP LRE**



-- DECEMBER 1793

Folded-letter, probably written at Boston,  
based on Devon port location and route for America-origin ships,  
sent to London.

Arrival Mark  
(Reverse)

“30 December (1793)”

7 Pence Collect...  
6 Pence Inland 80-150 Mile-Rate ( from Dartmouth to London) +  
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

**"DEAL  
SHIP LRE"  
(1767 - 1788)**

Located in the Province of Kent in  
southeastern England on the Strait of Dover,  
known for its safe anchorage,  
**REPUTED LANDING PLACE OF ROMAN GENERAL  
JULIUS CAESAR IN 55 A.D.**



**DEAL  
SHIP LRE**



**6 MAY 1775**

Folded-letter, written by "Abel Jamel & John Thompson" at Philadelphia,  
endorsed by ship's "Captain Falconer", sent to "Thomas Nicklosen", at  
Poole, Dorsetshire, mentioning in letter...  
**"public unrest and possibility of the port being closed"**  
351-day transit time.

**Arrival Mark  
(Reverse)  
"22 April (1776)"**

**6 Pence Collect...  
5 Pence Inland postage from Deal to Poole  
(over 80 miles)  
+  
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

**"DOVER  
SHIP LRE"  
(1765 – 1786)**

Located in the Province of Kent, in  
Southeastern England, on the Strait of Dover  
about 67 miles southeast of London,  
**DOVER WAS ALREADY AN IMPORTANT  
LANDING PLACE IN ROMAN TIMES.**

**DOVER  
SHIP LRE**



**5 OCTOBER 1767**

Folded-letter, written by "Mr. Taylor" of Providence, Rhode Island,  
endorsed by ship's "Captain Newall", sent to the  
"Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts"  
at Westminster (London). 64-day transit time.

**Arrival Bishop Mark  
(Reverse)**

**"8 December (1767)"**

**5 Pence Collect...**

**4 Pence Inland from Dover to London  
(Less than 80 miles)**

**+**

**1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

**"EXETER  
SHIP.LRE"  
(1768 - 1792)**

Located in the Province of Devon, in  
Southwestern England, on the Exe River  
about 37 miles northeast of Plymouth,  
**EXETER WAS ALREADY A TRADING CENTER AND  
FORT IN ROMAN TIMES.**

**EXETER  
SHIP LRE**



**23 SEPTEMBER 1768**

**Folded-letter, written by Rev. Mr. Hobart Briggs, missionary at the  
'Carolina Colony', sent to London. 75-day transit time.**

**Arrival Bishop Mark  
(Reverse)  
"7 December (1768)"**

**5 Pence Collect...  
4 Pence Inland from Exeter to London +  
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

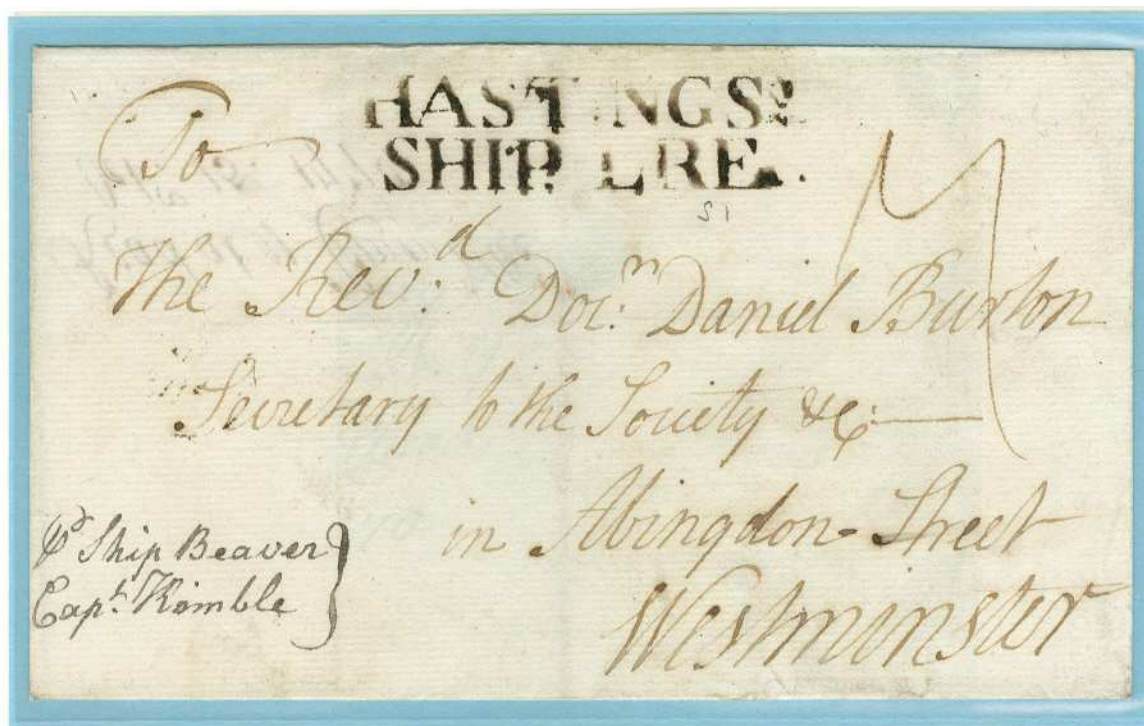
**First year of application of ship-letter handstamp on Exeter arriving mail.**

**"HASTINGS  
SHIP LRE"  
(1770 – 1786)**

Located in the Province of East Sussex in southern  
England on the English Channel  
at the Strait of Dover;  
**HASTINGS WAS THE SCENE OF THE  
'BATTLE OF HASTINGS' ON 14 OCTOBER 1066  
IN WHICH 'WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR',  
DUKE OF NORMANDY,  
DEFEATED ENGLISH KING HAROLD II.**



**HASTINGS  
SHIP LRE**



**10 JULY 1770**

**Folded-letter, written by "Mr. Samuel Seaburg" of Westchester, New York,  
sent to "Rev. Dr. Daniel Burton", Secretary, of the  
"Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts",  
at Westminster ("London"),  
endorsed by Captain Kimble of the Ship "Beaver". 53-day transit time.**

**Arrival Bishop Mark  
(Reverse)  
"1 September (1770)"**

**7 Pence Collect...  
2x 3 Pence Double-Sheet Inland Postage from Hastings to London  
(80 miles)  
+  
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

**Earliest Known Hastings Ship-Letter;  
Five Years Earlier than Previous Recorded Example.**

**"LIVERPOOL  
SHIP LRE"  
(1766 – 1789)**

Located in the Province of Merseyside, in  
northwestern England on the estuary of the  
Mersey River,  
**LIVERPOOL RECEIVED ITS CHARTER IN 1207,**  
and developed into a major port  
commencing in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.



**LIVERPOOL  
SHIP LRE**



**14 JUNE 1769**

**Folded-letter, written by "William Champs" in Virginia, endorsed by Captain Zuramy of 'The Madtero', sent to "Richard Smith Esq", at London. 84-day transit time.**

**Arrival Bishop Mark  
(Reverse)**

**"6 September (1769)"**

**9 Pence Collect...**

**8 Pence Double-Weight (enclosure) Inland Postage from Liverpool to London  
(4 Pence = Over 80 miles)**

**+**

**1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

**"PLYMOUTH  
SHIP.LRE"**  
(1766 – 1769)

Located in the Province of Devon, in  
Southwestern England,  
**PLYMOUTH WAS CHARTERED IN 1439**  
and was the last  
port of call in the British Isles before the  
'Mayflower' sailed to America in 1620

**PLYMOUTH  
SHIP.LRE**



**30 JANUARY 1769**

**"Reverend Sayre" of Newburgh, New York, written folded-letter,  
sent to the  
"Venerable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts"  
at Westminster (London). 54-day transit time.**

**Arrival Bishop Mark  
(Reverse)  
"24 March (1769)"**

**5 Pence Collect...  
4 Pence Inland from Plymouth to London  
+ 1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

**Reverend Sayre...  
Pro-British physician & churchman later imprisoned  
by the Revolutionary Forces and released after he had cured an outbreak  
of dysentery while a prisoner.**

**"PORTSMOUTH  
SHIP LRE"  
(1770 - 1777)**

Located in the Province of Hampshire, in southern  
England on island of Portsea in English Channel,  
circa 65 miles southwest of London,  
**PORTSMOUTH WAS FOUNDED & CHARTERED  
IN 1194**  
and became a naval dockyard in 1496.



**PORTSMOUTH  
SHIP LRE**



**6 DECEMBER 1769**

**"Alexander Stewart" of Newbern, North Carolina, written folded-letter,  
sent to the  
"Society for Propagating the Gospel" at Westminster (London),  
endorsed by ship's "Captain Elliot". 62-day transit time.**

**Arrival Bishop Mark  
(Reverse)  
"6 February (1770)"**

**7 Pence Collect...  
2x 3 Pence Double Inland Rate (enclosure/under 80 mile rate)  
from Portsmouth to London  
+  
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

**First year of application of ship-letter handstamp on Portsmouth inbound mail.**

**"WEYMOUTH  
SHIP LRE"  
(1768 – 1797)**

Located in the Province of Dorset, in southern  
England at the mouth of the River Wey on  
Weymouth Bay of the English Channel,  
west-southwest of Southampton,  
**WEYMOUTH BECAME A CHARTERED BOROUGH  
IN 1252**



**WEYMOUTH  
SHIP LRE**



Reverse

Front

**17 MARCH 1770**

**"Jones & Richardson" of Charlestown ("Boston") Massachusetts,  
written folded-letter, sent to "Langston Dixon" at London,  
endorsed by ship's "Captain Maithland". 46-day transit time.**

**Arrival Bishop Mark  
(Reverse)  
"2 May (1770)"**

**9 Pence Collect...  
2x 4 Pence Double-Sheet Inland Rate (over 80 miles)  
from Weymouth to London  
+  
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity**

### III. SCOTLAND..

#### "GREENOCK SHIP LRE" (1796-1798)

Located in Renfrewshire, southwestern Scotland,  
66 miles east of Edinburgh, 25 miles NW of Glasgow,  
on the south shore of the Firth of Clyde,  
**GREENOCK HARBOR WAS COMPLETED IN 1710.**



16 DECEMBER 1796

Folded-letter, written by "J.P. Delfruchy" at Philadelphia,  
sent to "Philip Gavey Esq", at London. 33-day transit time.

Arrival Mark  
(Reverse)  
"18 January (1797)"

1 Shilling/1 Penny Collect...  
(1784 Scottish Rate)  
2x 6 Pence (Double-Weight) above 150 miles  
+  
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity

First year of use of "Ship's Letter" Handstamp.

## IV. IRELAND..

### "DUBLIN SHIP LETTER" (1795)

Located in eastern Ireland at the mouth of the Liffey River  
on the Irish Sea,  
**DUBLIN WAS FOUNDED IN 1200 AD**  
to become important in commerce and shipbuilding.



### DUBLIN SHIP LETTER



1 JULY 1795

Folded-letter, written by "J. Cockin" at Philadelphia, route-endorsed "via Dublin", sent to "Mrs. Cockin", his mother, at Bristol, England. 31-day transit time.

The contents describes the writer's recent arrival in the United States from Jamaica after an eventful voyage during which his ship was boarded by sailors of a French privateer "of twelve guns"...

"I told them I was an American & supercargo upon which they all came up to me and shook me by the hand saying American, American... and only just looked in my chest...two days after we were brought ... by two Spanish armed brigs from the Havannah..."

Arrival Dublin-Bishop-Mark  
(Reverse)

"1 August (1795)"

1 Shilling & 1 Penny Collect =  
4 Pence Ireland + 8 Pence England  
+  
1 Penny Captain's Gratuity