

Portland as an exchange office for United States transatlantic mail by the Alan Line 1859-1870.

The Allan Line, formally known as the Montreal Ocean Steam Ship Company, was founded by Hugh Alan in 1853. Alan secured a contract with Canada to carry mails every two weeks between Quebec and Liverpool as well as a monthly mail between Portland and Liverpool during the winter months.

Portland was first designated as an exchange office for United States trans-Atlantic mails on 3 February 1859. Originally the office only exchanged mails under the U.S.-British treaty. In April 1861 Portland was added as an exchange office for both French Treaty mails as well as mail carried under the Prussian Mail Convention.

This presentation is primarily designed to show a variety of the exchange office markings used at the Portland exchange office, organized by treaty, but excluding the depreciated currency markings. The designated types and numbers known are from an unpublished census compiled by Van Koppersmith and corrected and updating the Hazleton census.

Outbound mail, other than those covers originating near Portland, was exchanged in other offices, including Detroit and Chicago for western origins and Boston and New York for eastern origins. However, most inbound mail arriving at Portland was processed at the Portland exchange office before being forwarded to destination. This is one of the reasons that this mail is rare. About 60 letters in this period are recorded today, most of them inbound mail from France or Great Britain. Any other country must be considered as scarce to very scarce or unique.

Plan

1. British Treaty Mail
 - 1.1 Inbound mail
 - 1.2 Outbound mail
2. Prussian Closed Mail
 - 1.1 Inbound mail
3. French Treaty Mail
 - 1.1 Inbound Mail
 - 1.2 Outbound Mail

Consulted sources:

- * Understanding transatlantic mail, Part 1 & 2 (R. Winter)
- * North Atlantic mail sailings 1840-1875 (Hobard & Winter)
- * Marques des passages (J. Van der Linden)
- * A century of Notices to the public 1782-1880 (P. Wijnants)
- * www.dasv-postgeschichte.de (postal treaty's)
- ** Collections of R. Winter, D. Littauer, H. Conzelmann, C. Bonarritto, J. Bohn, B. Boyd

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail

The 21 cents credit to the U.S. on the total of 24 cents postage due represents 16 cents sea postage by American packet plus 5 cents US inland postage. Britain retained her 3 US cents for her inland postage.



Unpaid single weight letter mailed on 29 Nov. 1859 from Arundel, UK, via London (30 Nov.) to Queenstown. Here it left Queenstown with the *North American* to Portland (arr. 16 Dec. 1859). Charged with 24 US cents (= 1) and a debit of 3 CENTS to the U.S. Portland arrival cancel 24 / PORTLAND ME A^M PK^T / DEC 16 1859.



Unpaid double weight letter mailed on 15 Feb. 1860 from Liverpool, UK with the *Anglo-Saxon* to Portland (arr. 2 Mar. 1860) and Castine. Charged with 48 US cents (= 2) and a debit of 6 cents to the U.S. Portland arrival cancel 48 / PORTLAND ME A^M PK^T / MAR 2 1860.

The only reported example of this cancel.

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Unpaid letter mailed on 13 November 1859 from Dromore-West, Ireland, via Balisodare, and Dublin (15 Nov) to Liverpool (15 Nov.). From here with the *Bohemian* to Portland (arr. 30 Nov. 1859). Charged with 24 US cents (= 1) and a debit of 3 CENTS to the U.S. Portland arrival cancel 24 / PORTLAND ME A^M PK^T / NOV 30 1859.

Maiden voyage of the *Bohemian*



Unpaid letter mailed on 28 March 1861 from London (LONDON / MR 28 / 61) to Liverpool. From here with the *Canadian* to Portland (arr. 8 April 1861). Charged with 24 US cents (= 1) and a debit of 3 cents to the U.S. Portland. The letter does not bear a Portland exchange office datestamp because it was included in a closed mail bag for New York. At arrival in New York, it was transmitted in a closed mail bag direct to Portland.

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Prepaid letter with 1/ mailed from Liverpool on 1 February 1860 (cancel PAID / LIVERPOOL / 1 FEB 60 / 03), per *Bohemian*, to the Alan Line agents in Portland. The 21 / CENTS credit handstamp was applied by the British postal agent onboard the *Bohemian*. Arrived on 14 February in Portland (cancel PAID / FEB 14 1860 / PORTLAND ME A^M PK^T).

The earliest of 6 known examples of this type of cancel.

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Unpaid letter mailed on 4 Sept. 1860 from Rathfriland, Ireland, via Newry (4 Sept. 1860) to the Irish port of Londonderry. On 7 September 1860 place onboard the *Cunard Line Steamer Jura* and arrived in Portland on 18 September 1860 (arrival cancel 24 / PORTLAND ME A^M PK^T / SEPT 18 1860) and a debit of 8 cents to the U.S. Portland.

First of four trips of the *Cunard Line steamer Jura* under contract to the Allan Line.



Unpaid double weight letter mailed on 29 January 1863 from Liverpool, UK with the *North American* to Portland (arr. 17 Feb. 1863). Charged with 48 US cents (= 2) and a credit of 42 cents to the U.S. Portland arrival cancel 48 / PORTLAND ME A^M PK^T / FEB 17 1863.

Only four examples of this type 3 cancel recorded.

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Unpaid letter mailed on 2 February 1861 from Hong Kong with P&O steamers *China*, *Nubia* and *Pera* to Southampton (arr. 21 March 1861). Via London transit to Liverpool to catch the Alan Line steamer *Nova Scotian* and arrival at Portland on 4 April 1861 (arrival cancel PORTLAND ME A^M PK^T / APR 4 1861). Postage due 33 US cents (pencil note and cancel) with debit to the U.S. of 12 cents (= 6d.) debit to the U.S. for British carriage from Hong Kong to London.

Only Alan Line-Portland letter from Hong Kong recorded.



Prepaid letter mailed on 12 November 1866 from Malta (cancel A25) via London transit to Londonderry to catch the Alan Line steamer *St. David* and arrival at Portland on 10 December 1866 (arrival cancel 5 / PORTLAND ME A^M PK^T / DEC 10 1866). Postage due 14d. to U.S. port of entry with a U.S. inland charge of 5 cents (Due 5) and 16 CENTS credit to the U.S. struck onboard by the British Postal agent.

Only Alan Line-Portland letter from Malta recorded.

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Prepaid letter with 12x 1d (= 1) mailed on 9 August 1860 from Glasgow, Scotland, to Londonderry. On 10 August aboard the *North American* to Quebec (arrival 20 August). Thence by rail to Portland (arrival cancel 24 / PORTLAND / PAID / ME A^M PK^T) and 21 CENTS U.S. credit stamp.

On January 1st, 1868 the rate for a single letter between Great Britain and the United States was reduced to 6d. (12 cents).



Prepaid letter with 6d. mailed on 19 November 1868 from London, to Londonderry. On 19 November aboard the *Damascus* to Portland (arrival 5 December). Thence by rail to Portland (arrival cancel PORTLAND / PAID / ME A^M PK^T).

1. British Treaty Mail
1.2 Outbound Mail



Letter mailed on 18 January 1860 from Detroit, via Portland to England, prepaid 24 cents and PAID cancel. On 2 January the *North American* departed Portland, Maine to Liverpool (arr. Feb. 3). 3 February 1860 PAID LIVERPOOL US PACKET exchange office entry datestamp.

First trip of Alan Line steamer as an American packet under British Mail treaty.

On January 1st, 1868 the rate for a single letter between Great Britain and the United States was reduced to 6d. (12 cents).



Prepaid letter mailed on 25 January 1870 from Cambridge to B.F. Stevens, U.S. despatch agent. On 29 January from Portland with the *Nova Scotian* to Liverpool (arr. Feb. 10). LONDON / PAID / FEB 11 / 70 exchange office entry datestamp. The U.S. Despatch Agent forwarded it under cover to the USS *Sabine* at Naples, Italy.

Only Portland-Allan Line letter to a U.S. military ship aboard.

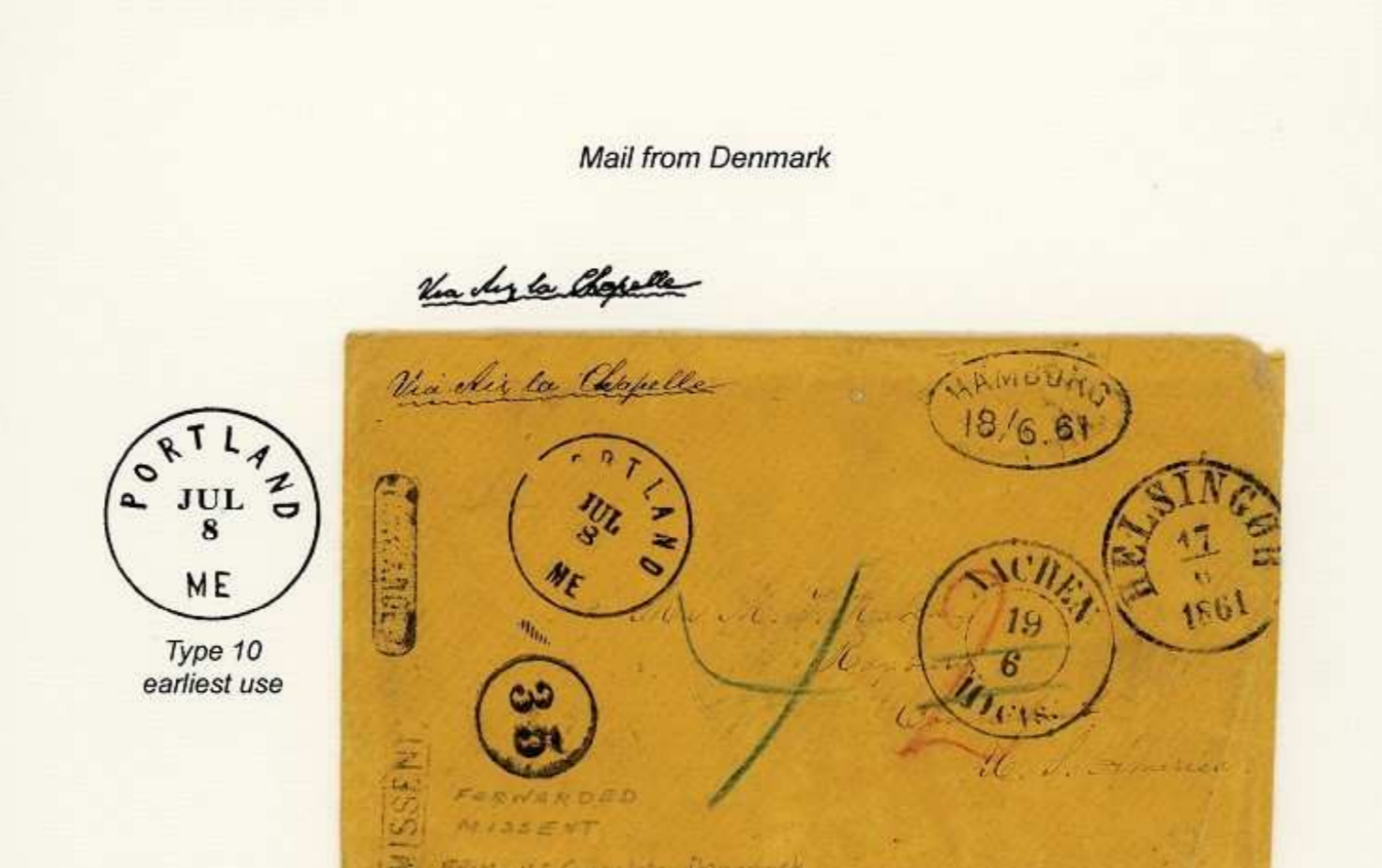
2. Prussian Closed Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail

The U.S. - Prussian Closed Mail convention of 1853 utilized a postal route for mail traveling via Ostend and Aachen and then in closed mail bags across the United Kingdom to the United States. Article II of the convention, published a rate of 30 cents for any letter USA-Prussia via PCM, split up as 5 cents US, 18 cents sea + GB transit, 2 cents Belgium transit and 5 cents Prussia + a variable part for letters beyond Prussia. An additional article to the Closed Mail Convention that was signed in Berlin on 24 April, 1861, created additional exchange offices at Portland, Chicago and Detroit.



Unpaid letter mailed on 18 June 1866 from Cologne, Prussia to Pigeon Cove, Mass., USA. Unpaid 30 cents rate. Aachen (19 June) that credited 5 cents (cancel AACHEN / 19 6 / 5 Cts). Via Ostend to Liverpool with a departure on 21 June by the Alan Line steamer *Damascus* to Quebec (arr. 7 July). Further by train to Portland (cancel PORTLAND ME / JUL 8 / 30).

2. Prussian Closed Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Unpaid letter mailed on 17 June 1861 from Helsingor, Denmark to Roxbury, USA. Unpaid 35 cents rate via Hamburg (with 2 Lübeck skilling crossed out and 4 Lübeck skilling for the stretch to Hamburg) Aachen (21 August) that debited 10 cents. Via Ostend to Liverpool with a departure on 20 June with the Alan Line steamer *Nova Scotian* to Quebec (arr. 4 July). Further by train to Portland (cancel PORTLAND / JUL 8 / ME) and 35 cents due handstamp. MISSENT to Roxbury, Mass.



Unpaid letter mailed on 19 August 1861 from Helsingor, Denmark to Roxbury, USA. Unpaid 35 cents rate via Hamburg (with 2 Lübeck skilling crossed out and 4 Lübeck skilling for the stretch to Hamburg) Aachen (21 August) that debited 10 cents. Via Ostend to Liverpool with a departure on 22 August with the Alan Line steamer *North American* to Quebec (arr. 2 September). Further by train to Portland (cancel PORTLAND / SEP 4 / AM PKT) and 35 cents due handstamp.

2. Prussian Closed Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail

In September 1861, the US Post Office Department reduced the prepaid letters in single rate to most German states from 30 cents to 28 cents due to a British reduction of 1d (2¢) postage to those states. By British-Prussian agreement, the single rate for letters was reduced by 2d, half of which was extended to the transit of US mail. In May 1862, the reduction was applied to all German states except Baden, which was included one year later. Attention, the rate for unpaid mail remained at 30 cents. The new basic rate since 1861 was: 5 US, Sea + GB 16 + Belgium 2 + GAPI 5 = 28 cents (=41 Kr.).



Prepaid letter (cancel) mailed on 15 February 1867 from Königsberg, Prussia to Mabridge, Mass., USA. Prepaid 41 Kr (= 28 cents). Aachen (18 February) that credited 23 cents (cancel AACHEN / 18 2 / 23 Cts) and wrote the 8 cents credit (crossed) and the 2 cents Belgian credit in the bottom left corner. Further via Ostend to Liverpool with a departure on 21 February with the Alan Line steamer *Nova Scotian*, via Londonderry to Quebec (cancel PORTLAND AM PKT / MAR 5 / 28).

3. French Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail

The French - U.S. Convention of 1857 introduced a prepaid letter rate of 8 centimes per 7 1/2 grams or 15 US cents per 1/4 ounce, effective April 1, 1857. Additional articles that became effective on April 1, 1861 added Canada's Alan Line, accounted as British packets. All credit and debit accounting was marked in US cents on each letter with French accounting for U.S. postage and the U.S. accounting for British and French postage. Mail from Boston or the Midwest (via Detroit or Chicago exchange offices) to France could be forwarded by Portland for transport by the Allan Line. A British Service handstamp was applied on inbound French Treaty mail before 1868.



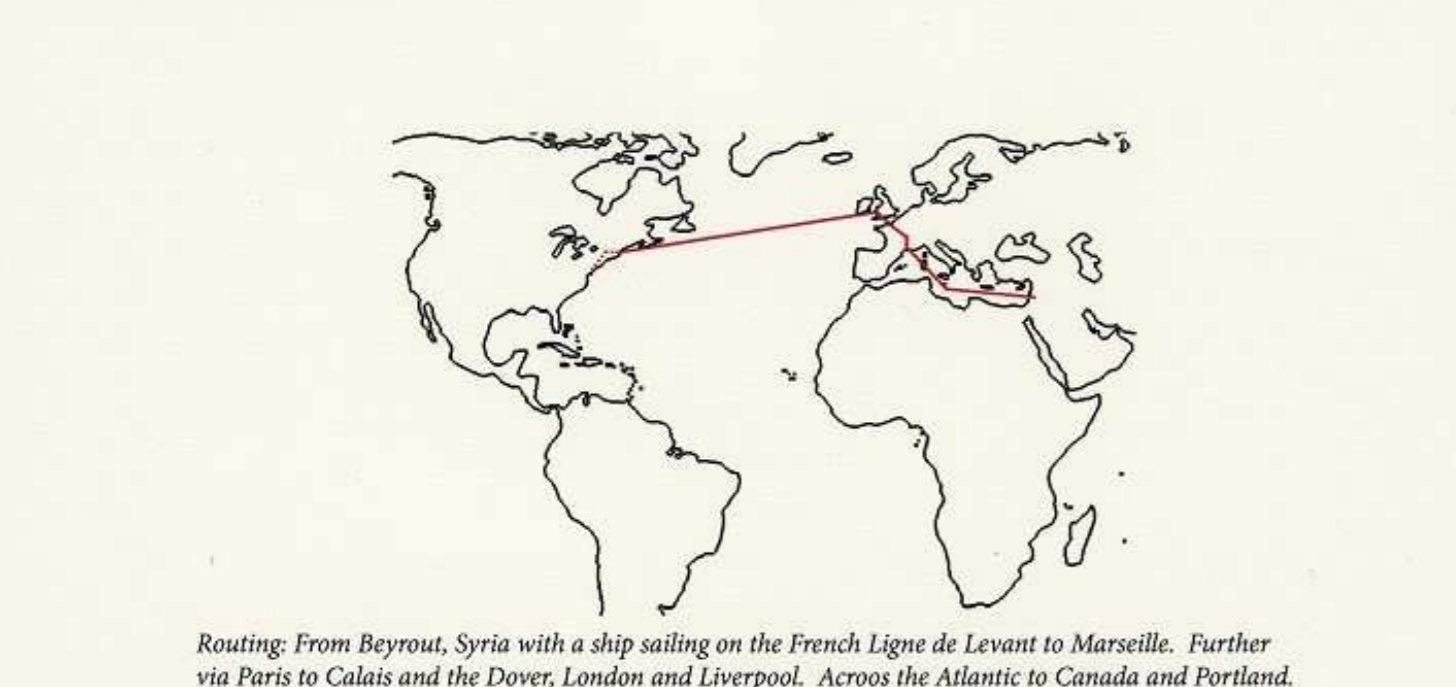
Prepaid letter with 80 centimes (= 15 US cents) mailed on 22 April 1861 from Paris, France to New Orleans, LA, CSA. On 25 April with the *North American* from Liverpool, via Londonderry to Quebec (arr. 8 May). Arrived on Portland on May 10 (cancel PORTLAND / 10 MAY / PAID 15) being the first month as an exchange office for French mails. On 22 May docked at arrival in New Orleans after crossing the Confederacy lines before the service was terminated on 27 May.

Only first month-CSA letter by Allan Line recorded.



Double weight prepaid letter (160 centimes = 30 US cents) mailed on 4 March 1864 from Boulogne-sur-mer with manual notation (cancel) to Beverly, Mass., USA. The postal clerk at Boulogne applied the 6¢ handstamp as being a credit of 6 US cents to the US and the PD. cancel as being fully paid to destination. On 10 March with the *America* from Liverpool, via Londonderry, to Portland (arr. 25 March and cancel PORTLAND / MAR 15 / PAID 30).

3. French Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Prepaid letter with 2x 80 centimes = 160 centimes (= 30 US cents) mailed on 11 September 1862 from Beyrut, Syria to Portland, Conn., USA. On 25 September with the *Jura* from Liverpool, via Londonderry, to Quebec (arr. 8 Oct.). Further by rail and arrived on Portland on October 10 (cancel PORTLAND / OCT 10 / PAID 15) with 6 centimes credit to France.

Only Syria letter by Allan Line recorded.

3. French Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail

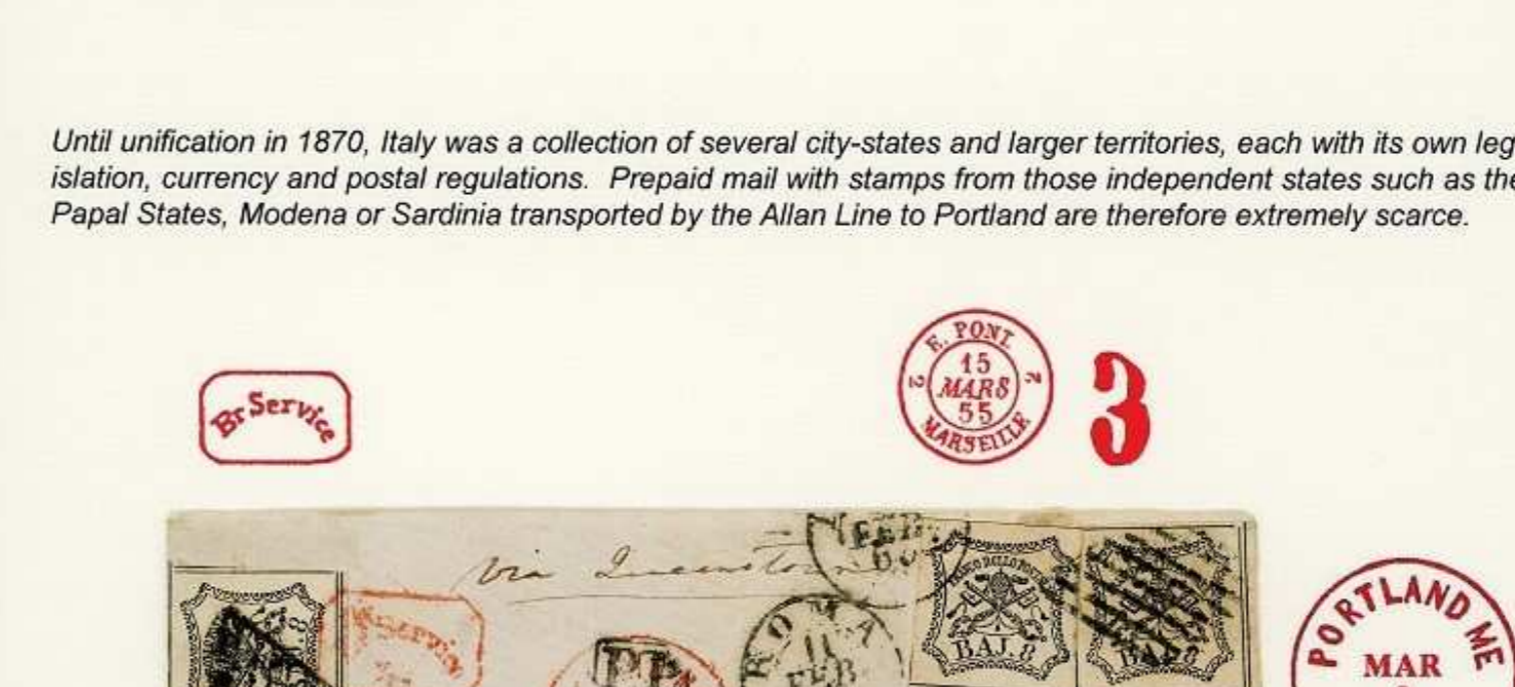


Prepaid letter mailed on 28 November 1866 from Palermo, Sicily, Italy (cancel PALERMO / 28 NOV 66) to Handy Point, Maine, USA. Prepaid of 120 centesimi (=21 US cents), via de desinfection station (two sits) and the exchange office of Lanslebourg Mont-Cenis (cancel ITALIE / 6 / LANLSLEBOURG / 5 / 5 DEC 66), through the Mont-Cenis tunnel and Paris to Liverpool. On 7 Dec. with the Alan Line steamer *Damascus*, via Londonderry, to Portland (arrival cancel PORTLAND / DEC 28 / PAID). 3 cents credit to France.



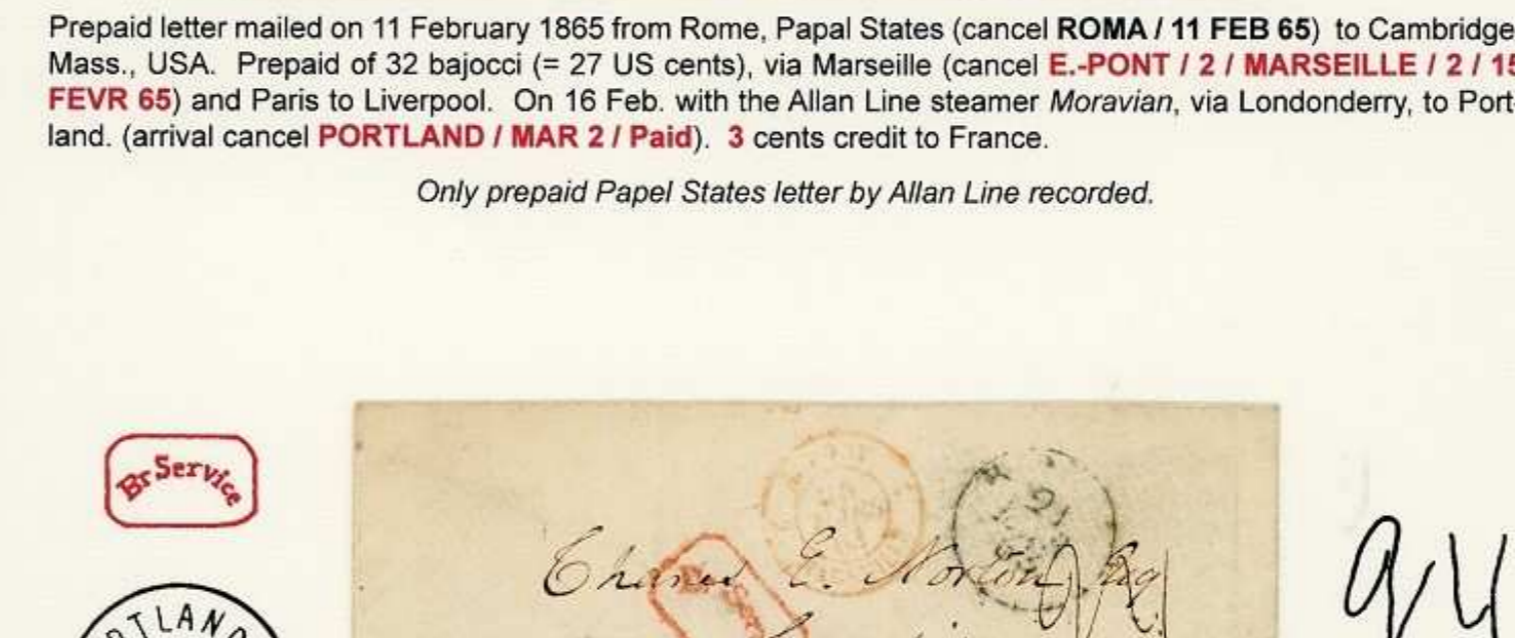
Unpaid letter mailed on 29 June 1861 from Lucca, Tuscany, Italy (cancel LUCA / 29 GIU 61) to Newark, NJ, USA. Written due of 120 centesimi (=21 US cents), via Livorno and Torino to Paris and Liverpool. On 4 July with the Alan Line steamer *Hibernian*, via Londonderry, to Portland (arrival cancel PORTLAND ME / JUL 18 / 21). 18 cents credit to the USA.

3. French Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Prepaid letter mailed on 11 February 1865 from Rome, Papal States (cancel ROMA / 11 FEB 65) to Cambridge, Mass., USA. Prepaid of 32 bajocchi (= 27 US cents), via Marseille (cancel E-PONT / 2 / MARSEILLE / 2 / 15 FEB 65) and Paris to Liverpool. On 16 Feb. with the Alan Line steamer *Moravian*, via Londonderry, to Portland (arrival cancel PORTLAND / MAR 2 / PAID). 3 cents credit to France.

Only prepaid Papal States letter by Allan Line recorded.



Unpaid letter mailed on 21 June 1863 from Rome, Papal States (cancel ROME / 21 MAR 63) to Cambridge, Mass., USA. Via Marseille (cancel E-PONT / 2 / MARSEILLE / 2 / 23 MAR 63) and Paris to Liverpool. On 2 April with the Alan Line steamer *Hibernian*, via Londonderry, to Portland (arrival cancel PORTLAND ME / APR 19 / 27). 24 cents credit to the USA.

3. French Treaty Mail
1. Outbound Mail

The British-American postal convention, effective on January 1st, 1868, made each country responsible for the dispatch of all mails and eliminated distinction between American and British packets.



Prepaid letter of 30 cents (double rate) mailed on 11 September 1868 from Portland, on 12 Sept. (cancel PORTLAND / SEP 11 / PAID 12) and PD as paid to destination) with the Alan steamer *Hibernian* via Londonderry and Liverpool (23 Sept.) to Calais (arriving cancel 3 / ETATS-UNIS / 3 / SERV. AM. CALAIS) and further to Paris, France.

Note: The PAID 12 portion of this exchange handstamp is not the same use as the Paid 12 cents for mail carried by Allan Line steamers after 1 January 1868.



Prepaid letter of 15 cents mailed on 3 January 1869 from Portland, on 12 Sept. (cancel PORTLAND / JAN 3 / PAID) and PD as paid to destination) with the Alan steamer *Hibernian* via Londonderry and Liverpool (13 Jan.) to Calais (arriving cancel 3 / ETATS-UNIS / 3 / SERV. AM. CALAIS) and further to Paris, France (arrival cancel PORTLAND / MAR 2 / PAID). 6 cents credit to France.

Portland as an exchange office for United States transatlantic mail by the Alan Line 1859-1870.

The Allan Line, formally known as the Montreal Ocean Steam Ship Company, was founded by Hugh Alan in 1853. Allan secured a contract with Canada to Carry mails every two weeks between Quebec and Liverpool as well as a monthly mail between Portland and Liverpool during the winter months.

Portland was first designated as an exchange office for United States trans-Atlantic mails on 3 February 1859. Originally the office only exchanged mails under the U.S.-British treaty. In April 1861 Portland was added as an exchange office for both French Treaty mails as well as mail carried under the Prussian Mail Convention.

This presentation is primarily designed to show a variety of the exchange office markings used at the Portland exchange office, organized by treaty, but excluding the depreciated currency markings. The designated types and numbers known are from an unpublished census compiled by Van Koppersmith and correcting and updating the Hazelton census.

Outbound mail, other than these covers originating near Portland, was exchanged in other offices, including Detroit and Chicago for western origins and Boston and New York for eastern origins. However, most inbound mail arriving at Portland was processed at the Portland exchange office before being forwarded to destination. This is one of the reasons that this mail is rare. About 60 letters in this period are recorded today, most of them inbound mail from France or Great Britain. Any other country must be considered as scarce to very scarce or unique.

Plan

1. British Treaty Mail
 - 1.1 Inbound mail
 - 1.2 Outbound mail
2. Prussian Closed Mail
 - 1.1 Inbound mail
3. French Treaty Mail
 - 1.1 Inbound Mail
 - 1.2 Outbound Mail

Consulted sources:

- * *Understanding transatlantic mail, Part 1 & 2 (R. Winter)*
- * *North Atlantic mail sailings 1840-1875 (Hobard & Winter)*
- * *Marques des passage (J. Van der Linden)*
- * *A century of Notices to the public 1782 -1880 (P. Wijnants)*
- * *www.dasv-postgeschichte.de (postal treaty's)*
- * *Collections of R. Winter, D. Littauer, H. Conzelman, C. Bomaritto, J. Bohn, B. Boyd*

1. British Treaty Mail

1.1 Inbound Mail

The 21 cents credit to the U.S. on the total of 24 cents postage due represents 16 cents sea postage by American packet plus 5 cents US inland postage. Britain retained her 3 US cents for her inland postage.



Type 1
24 cents due



Unpaid single weight letter mailed on 29 Nov. 1859 from Arundel, UK, via London (30 Nov). to Queenstown. Here it left Queenstown with the *North American* to Portland (arr. 16 Dec. 1859). Charged with 24 US cents (= 1/) and a debit of 3 CENTS to the U.S. Portland arrival cancel 24 / PORTLAND M^E A^M PK^T/ DEC 16 1859.



Type 1
48 cents due

Unpaid double weight letter mailed on 15 Feb. 1860 from Liverpool, UK with the *Anglo-Saxon* to Portland (arr. 2 Mar. 1860) and Castine. Charged with 48 US cents (= 2/) and a debit of 6 cents to the U.S. Portland arrival cancel 48 / PORTLAND M^E A^M PK^T/ MAR 2 1860.

The only reported example of this cancel.

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Type 1
24 cents due



3
CENTS

Unpaid letter mailed on 13 November 1859 from Dromore-West, Ireland, via Balisodare, and Dublin (15 Nov) to Liverpool (15 Nov.). From here with the *Bohemian* to Portland (arr. 30 Nov. 1859). Charged with 24 US cents (= 1/) and a debit of 3 CENTS to the U.S. Portland arrival cancel 24 / PORTLAND ME A^M PK^T/ NOV 30 1859.

Maiden voyage of the Bohemian



3
3 US cents

Unpaid letter mailed on 28 March 1861 from London (LONDON / MR 28 / 61) to Liverpool. From here with the *Canadian* to Portland (arr. 8 April 1861). Charged with 24 US cents (= 1/) and a debit of 3 cents to the U.S. Portland. The letter doesn't bear a Portland exchange office datestamp because it was included in a closed mail bag for New York. At arrival in New York, it was transmitted in a closed mail bag direct to Portland.

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Type 2



21
CENTS
21 Cents
credit

1/ prepayment

Prepaid letter with 1/ mailed from Liverpool on 1 February 1860 (cancel **PAID / LIVERPOOL / 1 FE 60 / 03**), per *Bohemian*, to the Alan Line agents in Portland. The **21 / CENTS** credit handstamp was applied by the British postal agent onboard the *Bohemian*. Arrived on 14 February in Portland (cancel **PAID / FEB 14 1860 / PORTLAND M^E A^M PK^T**).

The earliest of 6 known examples of this type of cancel.

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Type 1
24 cents due



3
CENTS

Unpaid letter mailed on 4 Sept. 1860 from Rathfriland, Ireland, via Newry (4 Sept. 1860) to the Irish port of Londonderry. On 7 September 1860 place onboard the Cunard Line Steamer *Jura* and arrived in Portland on 18 September 1860 (arrival cancel **24 / PORTLAND M^E A^M PK / SEPT 18 1860**) and a debit of **3 cents** to the U.S. Portland.

First of four trips of the Cunard Line steamer Jura under contract to the Allan Line.



Type 3
48 cents credit

2/-
prepayment

Unpaid double weight letter mailed on 29 January 1863 from Liverpool, UK with the *North American* to Portland (arr. 17 Feb. 1863). Charged with **48 US cents (= 2/-)** and a credit of **42 cents** to the U.S. Portland arrival cancel **48 / PORTLAND M^E A^M PK / FEB 17 1863**.

Only four examples of this type 3 cancel recorded.

1. British Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail



Type 4

33 cent. due



33

12

[Handwritten signature]

Unpaid letter mailed on 2 February 1861 from Hong Kong with P&O steamers *China*, *Nubia* and *Pera* to Southampton (arr. 21 March 1861). Via London transit to Liverpool to catch the Alan Line steamer *Nova Scotian* and arrival at Portland on 4 April 1861 (arrival cancel **PORTLAND M^E A^M PK^T / APR 4 1861**). Postage due **33** US cents (pencil note and cancel) with debit to the U.S. of **12** cents (= 6d.) debit to the U.S. for British carriage from Hong Kong to London.

Only Alan Line-Portland letter from Hong Kong recorded.

Due 5
5 cents due

16
CENTS
16 cents
U.S. credit



Type 1
5 cents due

Prepaid letter mailed on 12 November 1866 from Malta (cancel **A25**) via London transit to Londonderry to catch the Alan Line steamer *St. David* and arrival at Portland on 10 December 1866 (arrival cancel **5 / PORTLAND M^E A^M PK^T / DEC 10 1866**). Postage due **14d.** to U.S. port of entry with a U.S. inland charge of **5** cents (*Due 5*) and **16 CENTS** credit to the U.S. struck onboard by the British Postal agent.

Only Alan Line-Portland letter from Malta recorded.

1. British Treaty Mail

1.1 Inbound Mail

21
CENTS



Type 3
PAID is high



Reduced back of the cover

Prepaid letter with 12x 1d (= 1l) mailed on 9 August 1860 from Glasgow, Scotland, to Londonderry. On 10 August aboard the *North American* to Quebec (arrival 20 August). Thence by rail to Portland (arrival cancel **24/ PORTLAND / PAID / ME. AM. PKT.**) and **21 CENTS** U.S. credit stamp.

On January 1st, 1868 the rate for a single letter between Great Britain and the United States was reduced to 6d. (12 cents).



Type 7
with PAID



Prepaid letter with 6d. mailed on 19 November 1868 from London, to Londonderry. On 19 November aboard the *Damascus* to Portland (arrival 5 December). Thence by rail to Portland (arrival cancel **PORTLAND / PAID / ME. AM. PKT.**).

1. British Treaty Mail
1.2 Outbound Mail



Letter mailed on 18 January 1859 from Detroit, via Portland to England, prepaid **24** cents and **PAID** cancel. On 2 January the *North American* departed Portland, Maine to Liverpool (arr. Feb. 3). 3 February 1859 **PAID LIVERPOOL US PACKET** exchange office entry datestamp.

First trip of Allan Line steamer as an American packet under British Mail treaty.

On January 1st, 1868 the rate for a single letter between Great Britain and the United States was reduced to 6d. (12 cents).



Prepaid letter mailed on 25 January 1870 from Cambridge to B.F. Stevens, U.S. despatch agent. On 29 January from Portland with the *Nova Scotian* to Liverpool (arr. Feb. 10). **LONDON / PAID / FEB 11 / 70** exchange office entry datestamp. The U.S. Despatch Agent forwarded it under cover to the *USS Sabine* at Naples, Italy.

Only Portland-Allan Line letter to a U.S. military ship abroad.

2. Prussian Closed Mail

1.1 Inbound Mail

The U.S. - Prussian Closed Mail convention of 1853 utilized a postal route for mail traveling via Ostend and Achen and then in closed mail bags across the United Kingdom to the United States. Article II of the convention, published a rate of 30 cents for any letter USA-Prussia via PCM, splitt up as 5 cents US, 18 cents sea + GB transit, 2 cents Belgium transit and 5 cents Prussia + a variable part for letters beyond Prussia. An additional article to the Closed Mail Convention that was signed in Berlin on 24 April, 1861, created additional exchange offices at Portland, Chicago and Detroit.



Type 5
with 30 (due)



Unpaid letter mailed on 18 June 1866 from Cologne, Prussia to Pigeon Cove, Mass., USA. Unpaid 30 cents rate, Aachen (19 June) that debited 5 cents (cancel **AACHEN / 19 6 / 5 Cts**). Via Ostend to Liverpool with a departure on 21 June by the Alan Line steamer *Damascus* to Quebec (arr. 7 July). Further by train to Portland (cancel **PORTLAND ME / JUL 8 / 30**).



Type 9
with 30 PAID

39

39 Kreuzer

Prepaid letter mailed on 5 August 1861 from Baden, Baden to Pittsburgh, Pa., USA. Prepaid 45 Kr (=30 cents), Aachen (8 August) that credited 25 cents (cancel **AACHEN / 6 8 / 25 Cts**). 39 kreuzer prepaid foreign postage was noted. Via Ostend to Liverpool with a departure on 8 August with the Alan Line steamer *Bohemian* to Quebec (arr. 19 Aug.). Further by train to Portland (cancel **PORTLAND AM PKT / AUG 22 / 30**).

2. Prussian Closed Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail

Mail from Denmark



Unpaid letter mailed on 17 June 1861 from Helsingor, Denmark to Robxbury, USA. Unpaid 35 cents rate via Hamburg (with 2 Lübske skilling crossed out and 4 Lübske skilling for the stretch to Hamburg) Aachen (*voie Aix la Chapelle*) that debited 10 cents. Via Ostend to Liverpool with a departure on 20 June with the Alan Line steamer *Nova Scotian* to Quebec (arr. 4 July). Further by train to Portland (cancel **PORTLAND / JUL 8 / ME**) and 35 cents due handstamp. **MISSENT** to Roxbury, Mass.



Unpaid letter mailed on 19 August 1861 from Helsingor, Denmark to Robxbury, USA. Unpaid 35 cents rate via Hamburg (with 2 Lübse skilling crossed out and 4 Lübse skilling for the stretch to Hamburg) Aachen (21 August) that debited 10 cents. Via Ostend to Liverpool with a departure on 22 August with the Alan Line steamer *North American* to Quebec (arr. 2 September). Further by train to Portland (cancel **PORTLAND / SEP 4 / AM PKT**) and 35 cents due handstamp.

2. Prussian Closed Mail

1.1 Inbound Mail

In September 1861, the US Post Office Department reduced the prepaid letters in single rate to most German states from 30 cents to 28 cents due to a British reduction of 1d (2¢) postage to those states. By British-Prussian agreement, the single rate for letters was reduced by 2d, half of which was extended to the transit of US mail. In May 1862, the reduction was applied to all German states except Baden, which was included one year later. Attention, the rate for unpaid mail remained at 30 cents.

The new basic rate since 1861 was: 5 US, Sea + GB 16 + Belgium 2 + GAPU 5 = 28 cents (=41 Kr.).



Type 9
with 28 PAID



Prepaid letter (*franco*) mailed on 15 February 1867 from Königsberg, Prussia to Mabridge, Mass., USA. Prepaid 41 Kr (= 28 cents), Aachen (18 February) that credited 23 cents (cancel **AACHEN /18 2 / 23 Cts**) and wrote the 5 cents credit (crossed out) and the 2 cents Belgian ceditn the bottom left corner. Further via Ostend to Liverpool with a departure on 21 February with the Alan Line steamer *Nova Scotian*, via Londonderry to Quebec (cancel **PORTLAND AM PKT / MAR 8 / 28**).

3. French Treaty Mail

1.1 Inbound Mail

The French – U.S. Convention of 1857 introduced a prepaid letter rate of 8 centimes per 7 ½ grams or 15 US cents per ¼ ounce, effective April 1, 1857. Additional articles that became effective on April 1, 1861 added Canada's Allen Line, accounted as British packets. All credit and debit accounting was marked in US cents on each letter with French accounting for U.S. postage and the U.S. accounting for British and French postage. Mail from Boston or the Midwest (via Detroit or Chicago exchange offices) to France could be forwarded via Portland for transport by the Allan Line.

A British Service handstamp was applied on inbound French Treaty mail before 1868.



Type 9



Prepaid letter with 80 centimes (= 15 US cents) mailed on 22 April 1861 from Paris, France to New Orleans, LA, CSA. On 25 April with the *Nort American* from Liverpool, via Londonderry, to Quebec (arr. 8 May). Arrived on Portland on May 10 (cancel **PORTLAND / 10 MAY / PAID 15**) being the first month as an exchange offices for French mails. On 22 May docket of arrival in New Orleans after crossing the Confederacy lines before the service was terminated on 27 May.

Only first month-CSA letter by Allan Line recorded.

Via England



Type 9
with PAID 30



Double weight prepaid letter (160 centimes = 30 US cents) mailed on 4 March 1864 from Boulogne-sur-mer with manual notation *Via England* to Beverly, Mass., USA. The postal clerk at Boulogne applied the 6^c handstamp as being a credit of 6 US cents to the US and the **P.D.** cancel as being fully paid till destination. On 10 March with the *America* from Liverpool, via Londonderry, to Portland (arr. 25 March and cancel **PORTLAND / MAR 15 / PAID 30**).

3. French Treaty Mail 1.1 Inbound Mail



Routing: From Beyrouth, Syria with a ship sailing on the French Ligne de Levant to Marseille. Further via Paris to Calais and the Dover, London and Liverpool. Across the Atlantic to Canada and Portland.



Type 9
with PAID 15



Prepaid letter with 2x 80 centimes = 160 centimes (= 30 US cents) mailed on 11 September 1862 from Beyrouth, Syria to Tolland, Conn., USA. On 25 September with the *Jura* from Liverpool, via Londonderry, to Quebec (arr. 8 Oct). Further by rail and arrived on Portland on October 10 (cancel **PORTLAND / OCT 10 / PAID 15**) with 6 decimes credit to France.

Only Syria letter by Allan Line recorded.

3. French Treaty Mail
1.1 Inbound Mail

Mail from Italy and Italian States

3



Prepaid letter mailed on 28 November 1866 from Palermo, Sicily, Italy (cancel **PALERMO / 28 NOV 66**) to Handy Point, Maine., USA. Prepaid of 120 centissimi (=21 US cents), via de desinfection station (two slits) and the exchange office of Lanslebourg Mont-Cenis (cancel **ITALIE / 5 / LANSLEBOURG / 5 / 5 DEC 66**), through the Mont-Cenis tunnel and Paris to Liverpool. On 7 Dec. with the Allan Line steamer *Damascus*, via Londonderry, to Portland. (arrival cancel **PORTLAND / DEC 26 / Paid**). **3** cents credit to France.



Unpaid letter mailed on 29 June 1861 from Lucca, Tuscany, Italy (cancel **LUCCA / 29 GIU 61**) to Newark, NJ, USA. Written due of **120** centissimi (=21 US cents), via Livorno and Torino to Paris and Liverpool. On 4 July with the Allan Line steamer *Hibernian*, via Londonderry, to Portland. (arrival cancel **PORTLAND ME / JUL 18 / 21**). **18** cents credit to the USA.

3. French Treaty Mail 1.1 Inbound Mail

Until unification in 1870, Italy was a collection of several city-states and larger territories, each with its own legislation, currency and postal regulations. Prepaid mail with stamps from those independent states such as the Papal States, Modena or Sardinia transported by the Allan Line to Portland are therefore extremely scarce.



Prepaid letter mailed on 11 February 1865 from Rome, Papal States (cancel **ROMA / 11 FEB 65**) to Cambridge, Mass., USA. Prepaid of 32 bajocci (= 27 US cents), via Marseille (cancel **E.-PONT / 2 / MARSEILLE / 2 / 15 FEVR 65**) and Paris to Liverpool. On 16 Feb. with the Allan Line steamer *Moravian*, via Londonderry, to Portland. (arrival cancel **PORTLAND / MAR 2 / Paid**). **3** cents credit to France.

Only prepaid Papal States letter by Allan Line recorded.



Unpaid letter mailed on 21 June 1863 from Rome, Papal States (cancel **ROME / 21 MAR 63**) to Cambridge, Mass., USA. Via Marseille (cancel **E.-PONT / 2 / MARSEILLE / 2 / 23 MARS 63**) and Paris to Liverpool. On 2 April with the Allan Line steamer *Hibernian*, via Londonderry, to Portland. (arrival cancel **PORTLAND ME / APR 19 / 27**). **24** cents credit to the USA.

3. French Treaty Mail

1. Outbound Mail

The British-American postal convention, effective on January 1st, 1868, made each country responsible for the dispatch of all mails and eliminated distinction between American and British packets.



Type 6
with PAID 12



Prepaid letter of 30 cents (double rate) mailed on 11 September 1868 from Portland, on 12 Sept. (cancel **PORTLAND / SEP 11 / PAID 12**) and **PD** as paid to destination) with the Allan steamer *Hibernian* via Londonderry and Liverpool (23 Sept.) to Calais (arriving cancel **3 / ETATS-UNIS / 3 / SERV. AM. CALAIS**) and further to Paris, France.

Note: The **PAID 12** portion of this exchange handstamp is not the same use as the Paid 12 cents credit mark used on single rate letters by French Packets. In this case it's the double 6 cents credit to France for mail carried by Allan Line steamers after 1 January 1868.



Type 6
with Paid



Prepaid letter of 15 cents mailed on 3 January 1869 from Portland, on 12 Sept. (cancel **PORTLAND / JAN 3 / Paid**) and **PD** as paid to destination) with the Allan steamer *Hibernian* via Londonderry and Liverpool (13 Jan.) to Calais (arriving cancel **3 / ETATS-UNIS / 3 / SERV. AM. CALAIS**) and further to Paris, France (arrival cancel **PORTLAND / MAR 2 / Paid**). **6** cents credit to France.