

Br Guiana

Preadhesive mail

Early letters

11 Jul 1800



ex Nathan

This letter from Rio Essequibo to Sharon CT, was handed to Captain Saville of a Boston steamer and marked SHIP and BOSTON on its arrival on 27 August. 10c was paid for domestic delivery. The letter addressed to Ma Jonathan Roberts from her husband describes a difficult trading environment: "I say dam the hole generation. A man my blood is to worm to think on them". (sic)

Very few letters earlier than 1800 from Demerara are known.

Br Guiana

Preadhesive mail

Earliest recorded despatch from Berbice

15 Feb 1805



ex Nathan

Ship letter to London received in Liverpool on 14 April and forwarded by Rawlinson and Bagott. Liverpool 206 mark and London receipt 16 April. Rated 1s 8s, 6d for the packet and 1s 2d inland.

DEMERARA OUTWARD MAIL

17 APRIL 1820



Packet letter to LONDON rated 2/2. Showing on reverse two line handstamp DEMERARY in black. Six examples recorded 1820-21. 21 APR 1820

Letter routed, unusually, via ST KITTS where it received small fleuron mark dated 3 MAY 1820.



Arrived LONDON 16 June 1820.

Transit 56 days

BERBICE RATES AND MARKS

Consignee's letters travelled free when sent together with cargo.

24 SEP 1837

Letter to LONDON endorsed 'Consignees Letter' and 'p Alex Robertson' and rated 1/4, the two sheef rate DOVER-LONDON.

Put ashore at DOVER and stepped SHIP LETTER struck in black. (CROWN) EXEMPT SHIP LR struck in red, in LONDON.

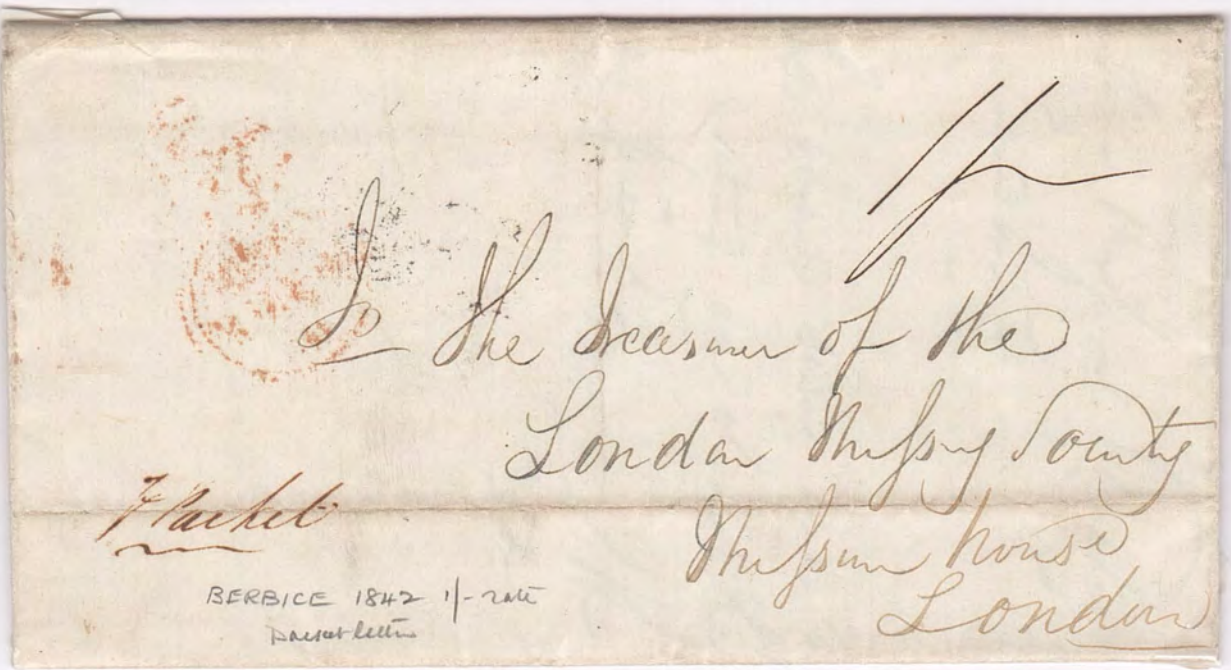
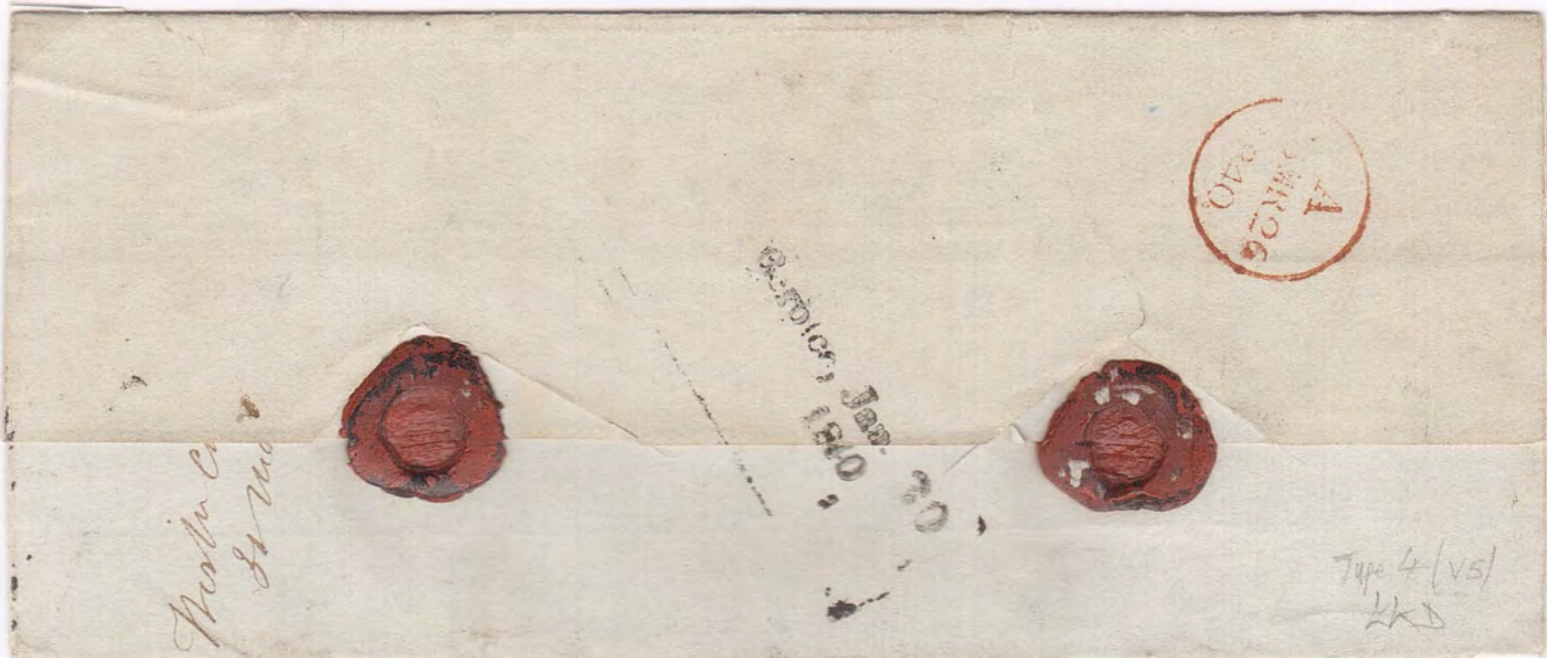
Alcock and Holland recorded this mark but saw no example of it.



LONDON NOV 21 1837.

Transit 58 days.

3/5 is not a rate mark but indicates that this is the third item of five.



British Guiana  
Ship covers

Internal mail to Barlow

23 May 1856



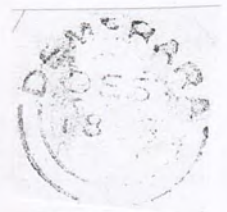
Large part entire mailed to Barlow's office in Georgetown.

ex Ginger

5 Dec 1856



Envelope mailed to Barlow's residence in Mahaicony.



backstamp

(A03)

GB stamps used in the BWI

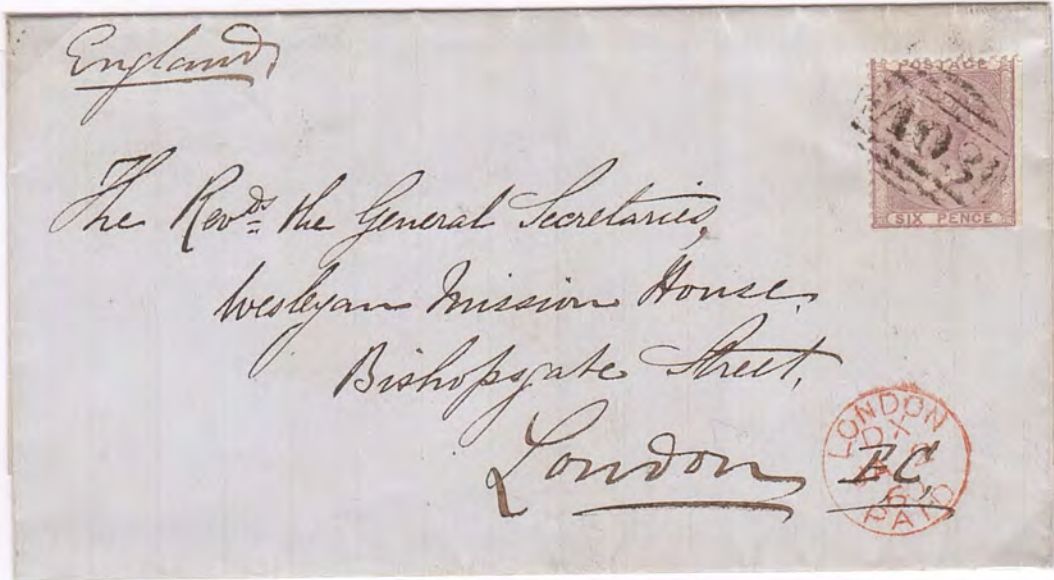
Br Guiana Demerara A03



Carried from Demerara per Clyde to St Thomas.

10 Dec 1859

Conway 10 Dec  
St Thomas 14 Dec  
La Plata 18 Dec  
Southampton 1 Jan



backstamp

Single 6d rate to London.

GB stamps used in the BWI

Br Guiana Berbice A04

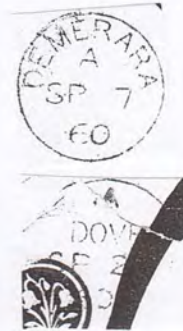


The much rarer A04 killer used at New Amsterdam, Berbice.

(A04)

A 6d packet rate to the UK had been in force since 1854, but it proved insufficient to cover the risks of sea travel in the 1860s and was increased to 1/- per half oz in 1863.

7 Sep 1860



Mourning cover to Hampshire, single rate 12c (equivalent to 6d). backstamps

The 6d per 1/2 oz rate to UK was in force from 1854 until January 1863, when it was raised to 1/-.

23 Oct 1860



Double rate to Gray, red 10 indicating 10d prepaid for credit to Imperial PO for the packet rate. Until June 1860, local stamps were ineligible to prepay overseas mail. GB stamps were in use from 1858 to June 1860, cancelled A03 if used from Demerara and A04 if used from Berbice.

ex D  
ex Am.



5<sup>d</sup>

Paid markings of the British West Indies

Br Guiana

24 Jun 1860

- Wye 24 Jun
- Bridgetown 25 Jun
- Thames 26 Jun
- St Thomas 29 Jun
- Shannon 29 Jun
- Southampton 13 Jul



backstamp

The 5d handstamp, in force in 1860 and 1861 only, was stamped over the 12c adhesive to signify that 5d was due to the GPO London, the remaining 1d being retained by the British Guiana PO.

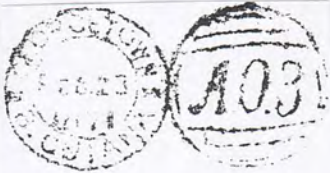
1<sup>a</sup> A03



? Dec 1871

Only recorded example

To St Stephens, New Brunswick, via St John, prepaid 1d.



PA 4 ID

7 Sep 1873



The PA4ID handstamp is rarely seen on stamps.

There is a second type with a thinner "4".

Franked 10c to the firm of Harvey in Canada. 1d was retained by the Georgetown Post Office.

British Guiana  
Ship covers

12c rate to the UK



embossing  
on reverse

9 Mar 1862



backstamp

Single rate to London, franked with three 4c stamps, 5d due to Imperial PO.

ex Brassler

Multiple rate to London

23 Apr 1861



backstamp

Quadruple rate to London, arrived on 12 May. Br Guiana retained 4d and paid 1/8d (red ms) to the Imperial PO for the double packet rate.

Paid markings of the British West Indies

Br Guiana

Berbice



Thames 8 Jul  
St Thomas 13 Jul  
Tasmanian 14 Jul  
Southampton 28 Jul

*The Berbice P.O. was not issued with a Paid mark. Evidently the Postmaster decided to use the New Amsterdam fleuron instead.*

6 Jul 1863



*Prepaid double rate (1/-) cover from New Amsterdam before the single rate was increased from 6d to 1/-. 2d was paid to the ship's captain and 10d to the Imperial PO. This shows the only known usage of the New Amsterdam fleuron as a Paid mark. Dated stamped Jy 8 Demerara transit.*



Intra-Caribbean mail

6d Interisland rates

The 6d intra-BWI rate was valid from 1872 until c 1881.

Eider 7 Apr  
St Thomas 13 Apr  
Eider 16 Apr  
Havana 21 Apr

Br. Guiana to Cuba

7 Apr 1874



backstamps

4d paid handstamp, St Thomas 13 Apr, arriving Havana 21 April.

ex Proud



backstamps

Mourning cover franked 10c (5d), 2c representing the internal rate to Demerara from its origin Reliance on the Canje river. Demerara transit 6 March, sadly no Georgetown arrival.

ex Proud

7

British Guiana  
Ship covers

Village covers to the UK

In Jan 1863 the packet rate was raised to 1/- per 1/2 oz.

4 Jul 1863



backstamps

This cover was mailed from Queenstown on the Arabian Coast (code A3C). The codes were allotted in geographic sequence to the POs along the Coast, from A1C to A5C.

24 Apr 1875



Single rate cover to London, sent from Leonora (allotted code W4C on West Coast, Demerara).

OVERSEAS MAIL



ACCOUNTANCY MARKS

1863. Packet rate to UK raised to 24 cents per ounce.

MAR 7 1864

Envelope from BERBICE to EDINBURGH, paid 24 cents but, unusually, 12c. and three 4c. cancelled A04.

Red crayon '10d' accountancy mark, indicating amount to be paid to the Imperial Post Office for the maritime portion, leaving 1d Inland rate at either end.



Backstamps: NEW AMSTERDAM double-ring MAR 7 1864.

GEORGETOWN MAR 8

LONDON PAID (on front) MAR 29

EDINB M 2 I MAR 30 1864

Transit 23 days.

Carried by R.M.S. THAMES from DEMERARA to St THOMAS.

R.M.S. OTRATO sailed 15 March 1864  
arrived SOUTHAMPTON 28 March 1864.



British Guiana

Abbreviated town cancels

Code E4C

22 Jan 1864



From Belfield to Mahaicony at the internal 4c rate.

Reverse of cover.

Code A1C

18 Feb 1870



From Aurora to Brick Dam at the internal 4d rate.



Backs

Br. Guiana  
The French Connection

New Amsterdam to Paris

20 Jan 1865

- Trent 23 Jan
- Bridgetown 26 Jan
- Wye 26 Jan
- St Thomas 28 Jan
- Seine 29 Jan
- Southampton 12 Feb
- London 13 Feb
- Calais 14 Feb



backstamps

Double rate (32c) made up of 4c and 12c stamps

Red "PD" (Payé a destination).



23 Aug 1866

- Mersey 23 Aug
- St Thomas 28 Aug
- Atrato 28 Aug
- Southampton 12 Sep
- Calais 13 Sep



backstamps

Single rate made up of two pairs of 4c

London date slug incorrect.

ex Brassler



12

British Guiana  
Ship covers

24c rate to the UK

7 Sep 1865



backstamp

Single 24c rate for a 1/2 oz letter, franked with 12c pair to London.

7 Jan 1868



backstamp

Franked 24c to London, open Demerara cds used between 1866 and 1872.

**British Guiana  
Ship covers**

8 Oct 1865

- Derwent 9 Dec**
- Bridgetown 11 Dec**
- Conway 11 Dec**
- St Thomas 14 Dec**
- Seine 15 Dec**
- Southampton 30 Dec**



backstamps

Letter franked at the single 24c rate per 1/2 oz to London unusually franked by three 8c stamps. The "10d" on red pencil indicates the amount due to the GPO London for the packet.

ex Nathan

7 Mar 1868

- Eider 9 Mar**
- Castries 11 Mar**
- Corsica 11 Mar**
- St Thomas 14 Mar**
- Douro 16 Mar**
- Plymouth 28 Mar**
- London 30 Mar**
- Paris 31 Mar**



backstamp

Double rated letter written at New Amsterdam on 7 Mar 1868 and charged 32c (ie 1s 4d) to France. The rate pays 4c inland fee for Berbice to Georgetown plus 28c packet rate to Paris.

ex Nathan

British Guiana  
Ship covers

10 cents rate to North America

23 Jun 1866



backstamp

A mystery cover. The single rate to Nova Scotia was 10c, as franked, with 5c due for delivery from Halifax (10 July b/s) to Port Medway. But the ms markings indicate a double rate cover.

6 Dec 1875



backstamps

The 10c per 1/2 oz rate to the USA, prepaid 4d for the packet rate in red. 5c due marking in blue and 5c due collected in the USA.

ACCOUNTANCY MARKS

AP 23 1867-GEORGETOWN to NEW BRUNSWICK



34c (1/5d) pre-paid, cancelled GEORGETOWN duplex type 9 (with stops in AQ3). Red crayon '1' and '1/4' applied in B.G. to indicate split of local and Imperial postage. After transit in LONDON, 15 MY 1867, '1d' handstamp applied to show part of this to be allowed for local delivery in British North America.



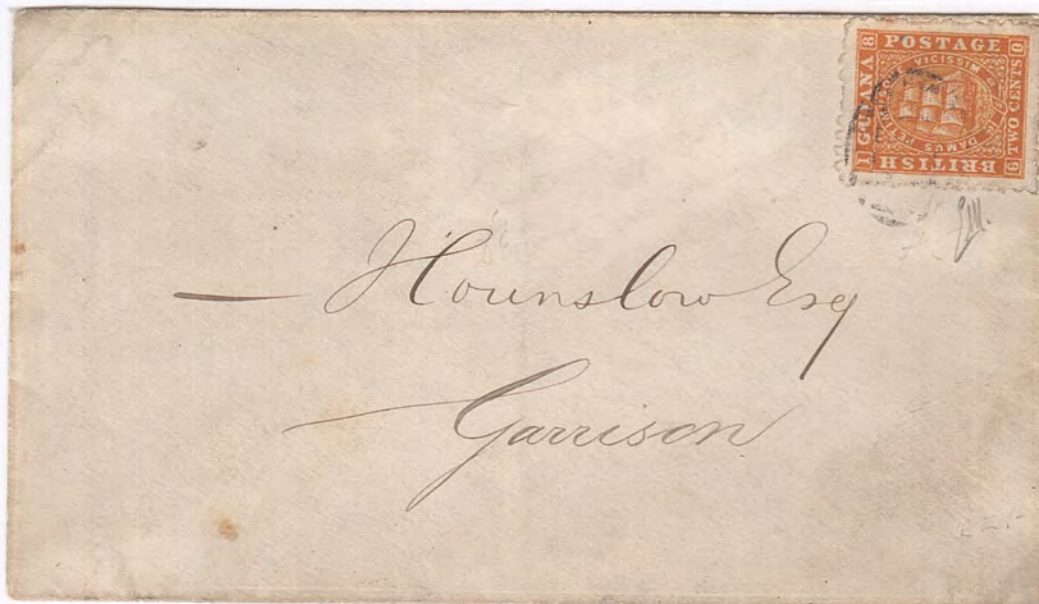
24c third setting type B (dot in VICISSI-M). 8c second setting type B (dot under VIII) edk. 2c third setting type B ('E' in CENTS). All perf 10. Backstamped P.O. MONCTON JU 4 1867 and RICHIBUCTO JU 5 1867. Transit 43 days. Rate for direct route was 10c, so despatch via LONDON was deliberate.

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*British Guiana  
Ship covers*

*Internal mail*

29 Dec 1868



*backstamp*

*The rarely seen "drop rate" used within Georgetown to enable businesses to mail invoices.*

19 Mar 1868



*backstamps*

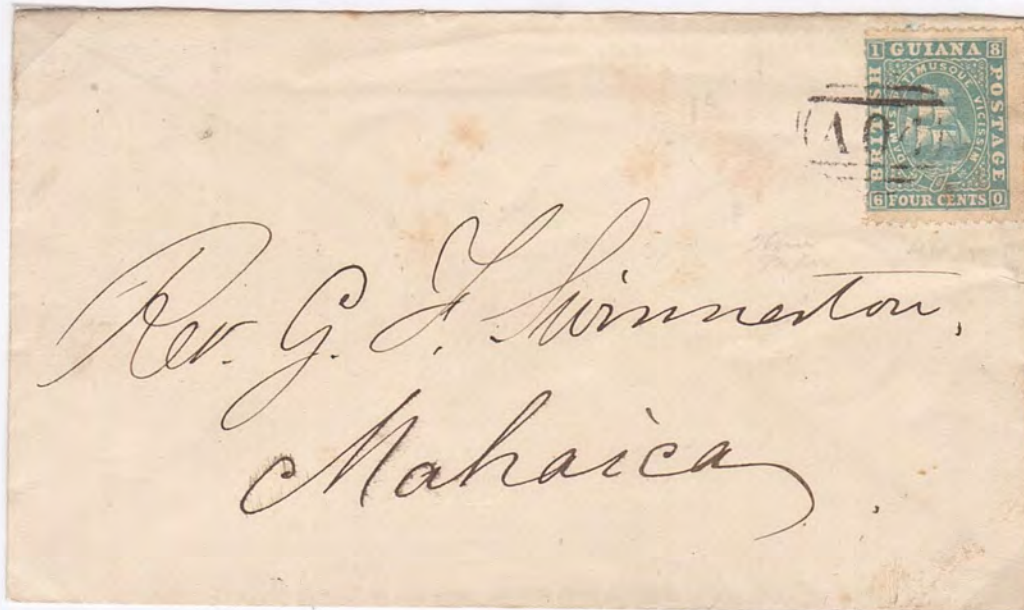
*Rated 4c from New Amsterdam (A04) to Georgetown, back-dated the New Amsterdam fleuron.*

*British Guiana  
Ship covers*

*Internal mail*

*The internal rate was 4 cents – or 2d – twice the 1d rate common in many Caribbean islands. But Br Guiana is a large country and it could take several days to deliver mail by mailboat or wagon.*

27 Mar 1868



backstamp

*From Berbice (A04) to Mahaica, New Amsterdam fleuron back-date, showing missing year date.*

ex Brassler

4c bisect

16 Apr 1868



backstamp

*4c bisected to pay the consignee rate to Campbell in Georgetown.*

British Guiana  
Ship covers

Internal mail to Georgetown

27 Mar 1868



Rated 4c from Anna Regina on the Atlantic Coast (code A4C).

3 Feb 1871



4c rate from Wakenaam. This cover has the same date as the cover referred to on page 268 of Townsend and Howe, which is annotated "Paid at Wakenaam" during a shortage of adhesives. Also marked "Paid", it was only franked in Georgetown where the stamp and A03 were added.

ex Proud

British Guiana  
Ship covers

Internal mail to Georgetown

27 Mar 1868



Rated 4c from Anna Regina on the Atlantic Coast (code A4C).

3 Feb 1871



4c rate from Wakenaam. This cover has the **same date** as the cover referred to on page 268 of Townsend and Howe, which is annotated "Paid at Wakenaam" during a shortage of adhesives. Also marked "Paid", it was only franked in Georgetown where the stamp and A03 were added.

ex Proud



Br. Guiana  
The French Connection

**Mersey** 9 Aug  
**St Thomas** 15 Aug  
**Shannon** 15 Aug  
**Plymouth** 29 Aug  
**Calais** 30 Aug

Mail to Ardeche

7 Aug 1869



An underpaid cover (16c was the single rate), 1/2 due.

**Eider** 8 Nov  
**Castries** 10 Nov  
**Mersey** 10 Nov  
**St Thomas** 13 Nov  
**Atrato** 14 Nov  
**Plymouth** 1 Dec  
**Calais** 2 Dec

8 Nov 1869



16c single rate to Ardeche.

Pre-UPU single 8d rate with crowned circle confirming full prepayment. Id retained, 7d to GPO.

174

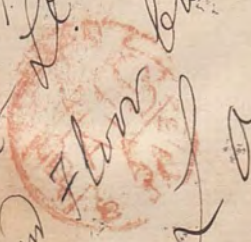
British Guiana  
Ship covers

3d Ship letter rate

9 Dec 1871

Per Private Steamer Penelope

3  
to Mr de Bernand by home  
20/2 Great St Helens  
(2<sup>nd</sup>) Floor Chambers  
London



backstamp

Per Penelope, franked 12c for double rate ship letter. Marked "3" in red to indicate prepayment, with a sum of 3d due to the Imperial PO instead of the 1 1/2d normally seen on ship letter covers.

British Guiana  
Ship covers

24c rate to the UK

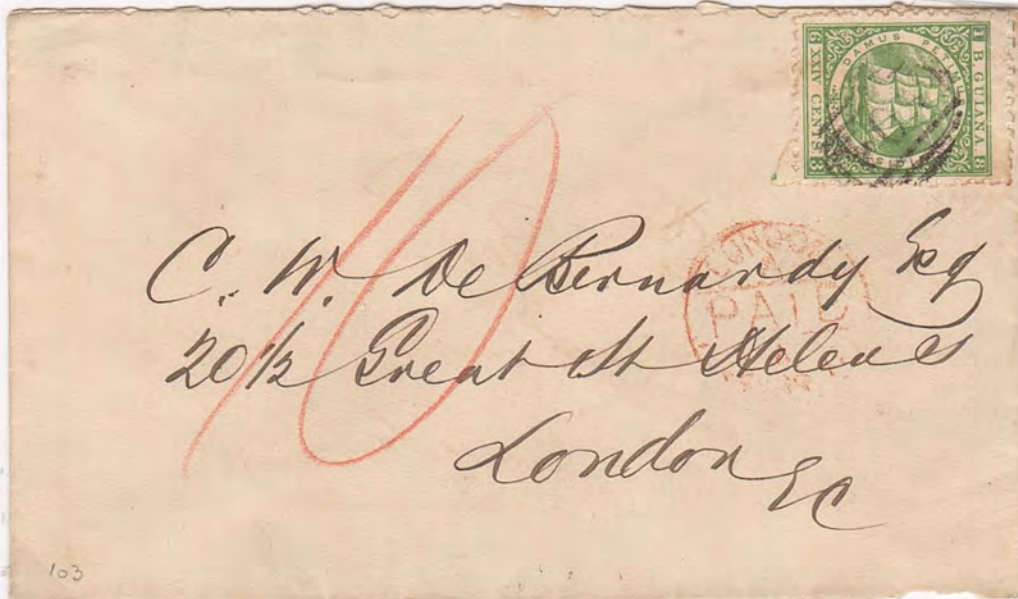
7 Jun 1871



Single rate to London, readdressed and GB 1d added to pay the forwarding fee.

backstamps

22 Feb 1872



Single rate to London, red "10" in ms indicating 10d due to the Imperial PO.

backstamp

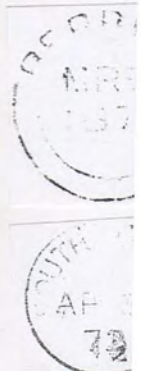
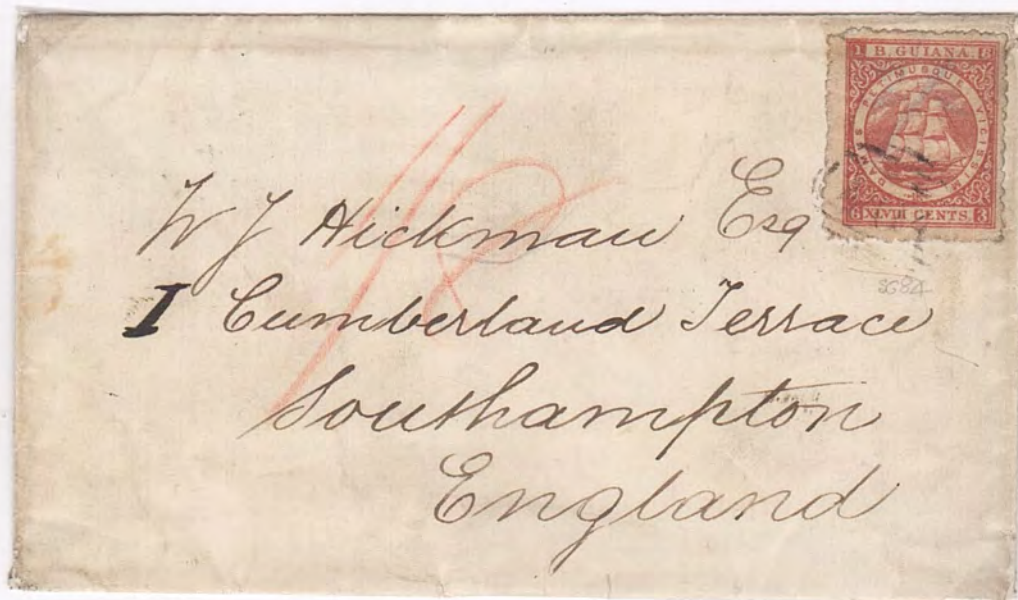
24c rate to the UK

23 Feb 1872



Single rate to London, franked with pair of perf 10 12 cent stamps.

9 Mar 1872



backstan

14 March 1873

Follow up letter 'per private steamer Gamma' direct to LONDON with similar marks  
but taking an extra ten days, until AP 12 73.

Transit 29 days



British Guiana  
Ship covers

24c rate to the UK

8 Jul 1874



Single rate to England.

7 Jan 1873



Double rate to England.

It is easy to mis-date our checks in early January, the date slug still reads 1873 instead of 1874.

21

British Guiana  
Ship covers

Internal mail to Georgetown

12 Aug 1873



backstamps

Drop rate cover mailed from Buxton (code E3C).

ex Proud

21 Nov 1874



backstamp

Drop rate cover mailed from de Kinderen (code E6C).

21

British Guiana  
Ship covers

Internal mail to Georgetown

12 Aug 1873



backstamps

Drop rate cover mailed from Buxton (code E3C).

ex Proud

21 Nov 1874



backstamp

Drop rate cover mailed from de Kinderen (code E6C).



British Guiana  
Ship covers

7 Jan 1873



Double rate to England franked perf 10 48c.

18 May 1874



2c rated cover to East Bank cancelled on arrival with rare code BIR issued to Sisters on 21 Feb 1874, so still in pristine condition. The normal rate was 4 c, this is annotated "Insp. of Schls".



single interisland 6d rate. The 4d paid stamp allocates 4d to the GPO London.

6 April 1876



bac

British Guiana  
Ship covers

Unusual rates

5 Aug 1875



In 1875 the registration fee was 8c (4d), the cheapest letter rate to London 24c (1/-).

backstamps

ex Sussex



Oct 26 1874



backstamps

Double rate from Br. Guiana to Sussex. Franked 36c, so 12c short. Bears a 1/0 marking showing the franking (applied in Br. Guiana?) and accounting notations at top left.

British Guiana  
Ship covers

Internal mail

21 Feb 1876



backstamp

Wrapper to Brick Dam franked 1c for the book rate. A Prices Current would have been enclosed.

1 Apr 1875



backstamp

To "The observatory" and franked 2c at the local Georgetown drop rate.

British Guiana  
The 1876 De La Rue issues

Registered mail to Winch in Colchester

1 Oct 1887



backstamp

Double UPU rate (16 cents postage, 4c reg fee).



backstamp

4 Jun 1885



Rare quintuple UPU rate (40 cents postage, 4c reg fee).

Winch, a wholesale stamp dealer, kept many of the covers in which stamps were mailed to him. However, nearly all appear to be correctly franked and represent legitimate commercial usages.

BRITISH GUIANA REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT BE OBTAINED FOR IT.



Albert Richter Esq<sup>r</sup>

Leipzigstrasse 10.

Leipzig  
Germany



NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER.

L. P. P. Gold, Georgetown  
Demerara 4. 4. 85

31

Single UPU 8 cents rate to Leipzig, showing red "registered at Georgetown" seal on the reverse.

23 Apr 1881

BRITISH GUIANA REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT BE OBTAINED FOR IT.



NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER.

L. Vernon Vaughan  
c/o S. Dawson & Co  
W. A. Berbice

Messrs Welch Prop.  
Photographic Publishers  
Colchester  
England

backstamp



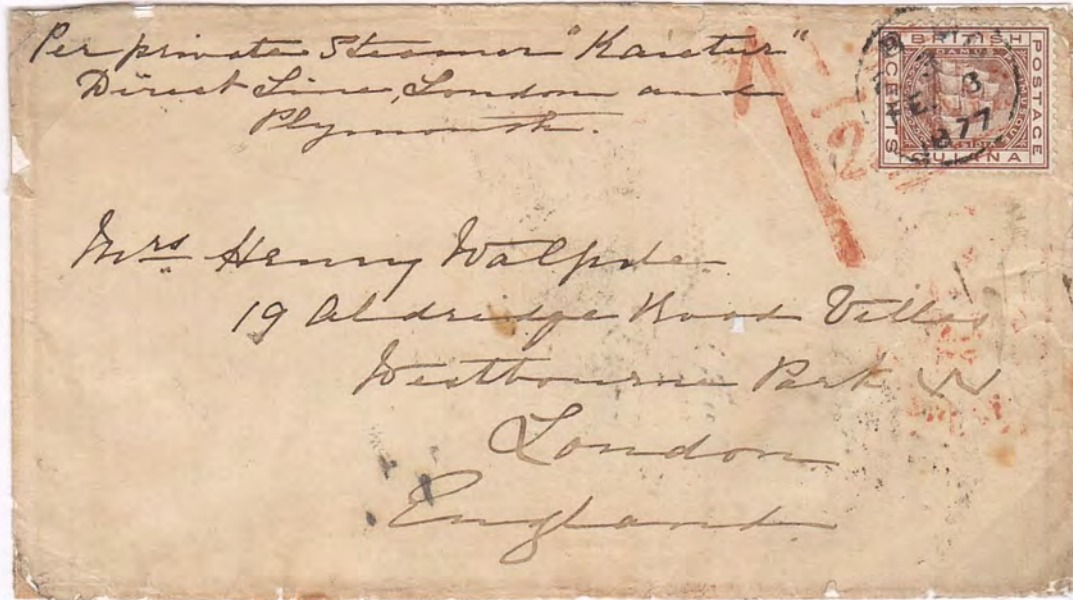
backstamp

Franked at the single UPU rate from Berbice to the UK, showing the boxed registration mark and a fine purple "registered at New Amsterdam" seal on the reverse. The writer, Vernon Vaughan, as a schoolboy in 1873 had discovered the unique 1856 1 cent stamp and sold it for 6/-.

*British Guiana*

*The unusual 1 1/2d hand-stamp*

3 Feb 1877



*"Per private ship Kaieteur" to Plymouth.*

*3d was the private ship rate from 1863 to 1879, when Br Guiana joined the UPU. The amount was shared between Br Guiana and GPO London. The cover was mailed at Vigilance on the east coast.*



*Backstamps*

Letter posted on board a ship in GEORGETOWN harbour, 1c City rate prepaid, was deemed to be a Ship Letter, rate 5c, shortage 4c, double 8c.

Cancelled oval DEMERARA Ship LETTER, the only example recorded.



ex Townsend



To)

A. Myerscough & Co.  
Merchants & Importers  
61 & 62, Grace Church St.,  
London, E.C.



E. C. Guad Sq.

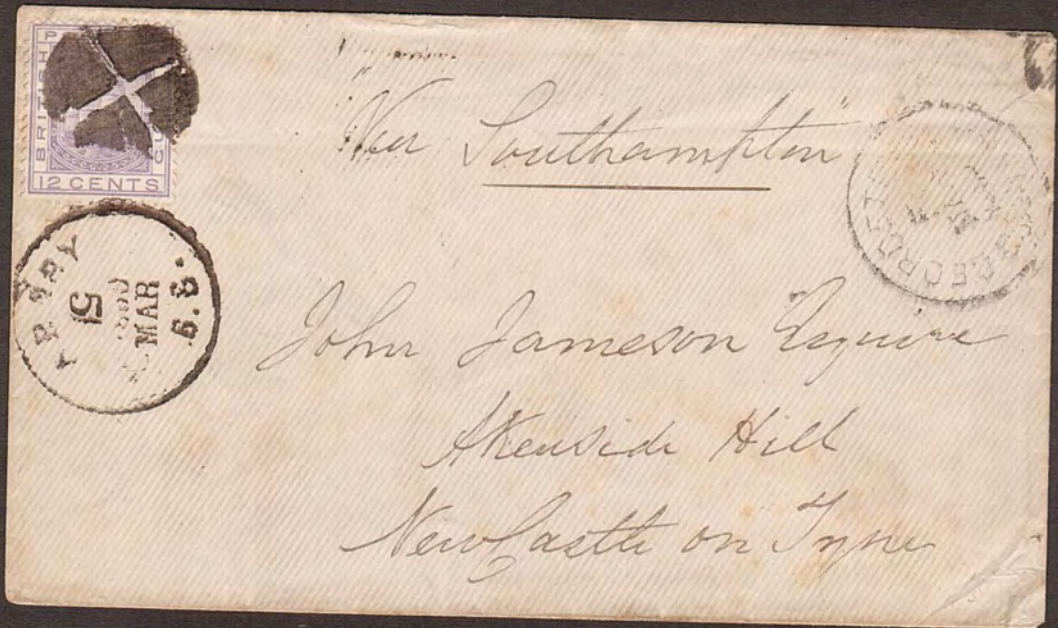


M. Suriquan.

E. Coast.

Demerara.









E. C. Luaid Esq  
 "Mon Repos"  
 East Coast



Mrs Pontifus  
 Georgetown





Br. Guiana

The French Connection

Mail to Europe by French steamers

Guyane 5 Jan  
Fort de France 10 Jan  
Lafayette 25 Jan  
London 26 Jan

5 Jan 1880



Carried by Ligne C to Martinique, transferred to Ligne A to St Nazaire and thence to London by cross-channel steamer. This unusual route from a British colony cost 8 cents, ie the UPU 4d rate.

Demerara 5 Oct  
Fort de France 8 Oct  
Washington 8 Oct  
St Nazaire 23 Oct  
Huntly 25 Oct

5 Oct 1882



From Belfield to Huntly UK with transit marks of Demerara Railway and French steamer

British Guiana  
The 1876 De La Rue issues

Internal mail

19 May 1880



Local 2c (ie 1d) rate from Boerasirie to Mon Repos, backstamped with the rare Type 2 B.V.VAGTING, an abbreviated version of Beterverwagting.

ex Nathan

6 Apr 1882



Rated 6c (2c postage, 4c registration fee) to New Amsterdam from Georgetown, showing a rare commercial usage of the 1881 provisional 2/12c official issued during a shortage of 2c stamps.

ex Nathan

SENT FROM GEORGETOWN TO BERMANT by French line, BACKSTAMPED  
DEMERARI PAQ. FR. C No 1 21 MARS 86. Six strikes have been  
recorded, the latest dated 1881.

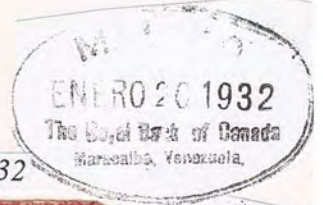
Carried by ss 'Venezuela' on Ligne C to ST. THOMAS, arrived 27  
March, and ss 'Ville de Bordeaux', which sailed that day for ST NAZAIRE.



Between November 1884 and November 1886, French line called at  
GEORGETOWN 24 hours after the RMS sailed. Very little mail was  
loaded.



Br. Guiana  
Missent markings



25 Jan 1932



Venezuela to Surinam.



27 Sep 1967



Trinidad to England