

TRINIDAD SHIP LETTER MARKS

There are three known types of Ship Letter marks. Of the three, the most common is **SP.3** of which there are 21 known examples; there are only three of Type **SP.1** and two of the more recently discovered **SP.2**.

Type **SP.1**

TRINIDAD
SHIP LETTER

SP.1

Struck in black, letters 4½ mm tall. Only three examples have been seen, the first dated 1848, the second 1856 and the last dated 1863. It is recorded in Proof Book 5 at the GPO London as being 'sent to Secretary 27 Aug 1841'. The 'S' of 'SHIP' is inverted.

EKD:– 19 April 1848 LKD:– 3 November 1863

Type **SP.2**

SHIP-LETTER
TRINIDAD

SP.2

Struck in black, only two examples are known, both on incoming letters from France.

EKD:– 10 January 1859 LKD:– 10 March 1865

Type **SP.3**

SHIP-LETTER

SP.3

Struck in red, 36mm long overall, letters 4mm tall. Some 20 examples exist on entires dated between 1869 and 1876; many of these are on covers from Venezuela bearing Trinidad stamps cancelled 'D22' at the British PO at Ciudad Bolívar.

EKD:– 16 December 1869 LKD:– 20 December 1876

SP.1 'TRINIDAD/SHIP LETTER'

1. 19 April 1848, entire from New Haven and backstamped 'Trinidad/MY (date illegible)/1848'; it was probably charged four pence.



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2. January 1856, from Calcutta arrived in Trinidad on 12 May.



3. 3 November 1863, from St. Pierre (Martinique) to Carupano, Venezuela. The letter was struck with the datestamp of Fort-de-France on 3 November and one of Trinidad on 6 November; according to a handwritten note on the inside, this letter was finally delivered on 11 November.



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SP.2 'SHIP-LETTER/TRINIDAD'

Sent to the Colony on 27 August 1841.

1. 10 January 1859, from France, rated at 60 centimes and apparently carried by the **ALMAE** of Messageries Maritimes.



2. 10 March 1865, from Le Havre, France affixed with a 10 centime and a 20 centime adhesive. The 30 centime rate indicates that the letter was posted at the port of departure.



TRINIDAD

SP.3 'SHIP-LETTER'

Unless otherwise stated, all the following covers are addressed to Fritz Zucher, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

1. 16 December 1869, from Ciudad Bolívar without adhesives.



2. 10 May 1871, Franked with two 200 mils adhesives from Santander, Spain addressed to Forwarding Agents Gerold & Ulrich where it arrived on 22 June for onward transmission to Carupano in Venezuela.



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3. 26 October 1871, from Santander, with two 200 mils adhesives and similarly addressed to Forwarding Agents Gerold & Ulrich for onward transmission to Carupano.



4. December 1871, similar to the previous letter from Santander.

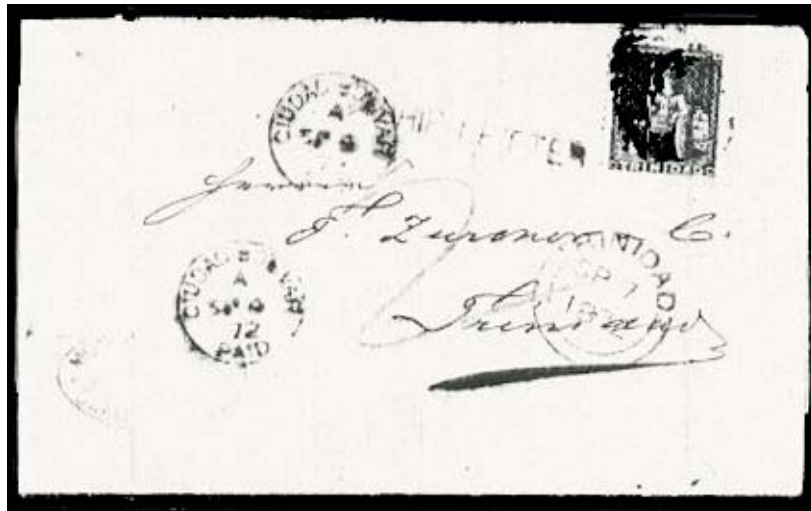


TRINIDAD

5. 9 July 1872, from Le Havre, France with two 25 centime adhesives. Manuscript 'p Noise!' and also displaying 'TOO-LATE' mark in black.



6. 4 September 1872, from Ciudad Bolívar, also displaying a 'D22' mark.



7. 27 June 1873, from Le Havre.

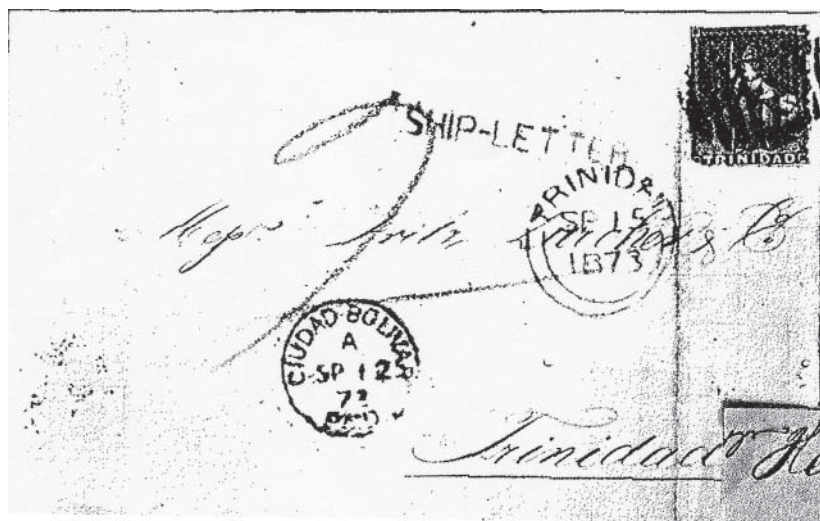


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8. 15 July 1873, a letter from Ciudad Bolívar and delivered 4 days later with a red 'CIUDAD BOLÍVAR' cds also with Forwarding Agents oval mark 'R y T MACHADO/CIUDAD BOLÍVAR' in blue.



9. 12 September 1873, another letter from Ciudad Bolívar with 'CIUDAD BOLÍVAR' cds.



10. 12 October 1873, from Ciudad Bolívar.
11. 10 December 1873, again from Ciudad Bolívar.

TRINIDAD

12. 27 December 1873, again from Ciudad Bolívar with Forwarding Agents mark 'R y T MACHADO/CIUDAD BOLÍVAR' in blue.



13. 16 January 1874, again from Ciudad Bolívar with Forwarding Agents oval mark 'R y T MACHADO/CIUDAD BOLÍVAR' in blue and addressed to 'Puerto España' instead of 'Port of Spain'.



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14. 20 February 1875, addressed to Zurcher.

15. 7 August 1875, delivered on 13 August; inscribed in manuscript 'per Lotharingia' and franked with a 10 cent adhesive of the Hamburg-Amerika Line.

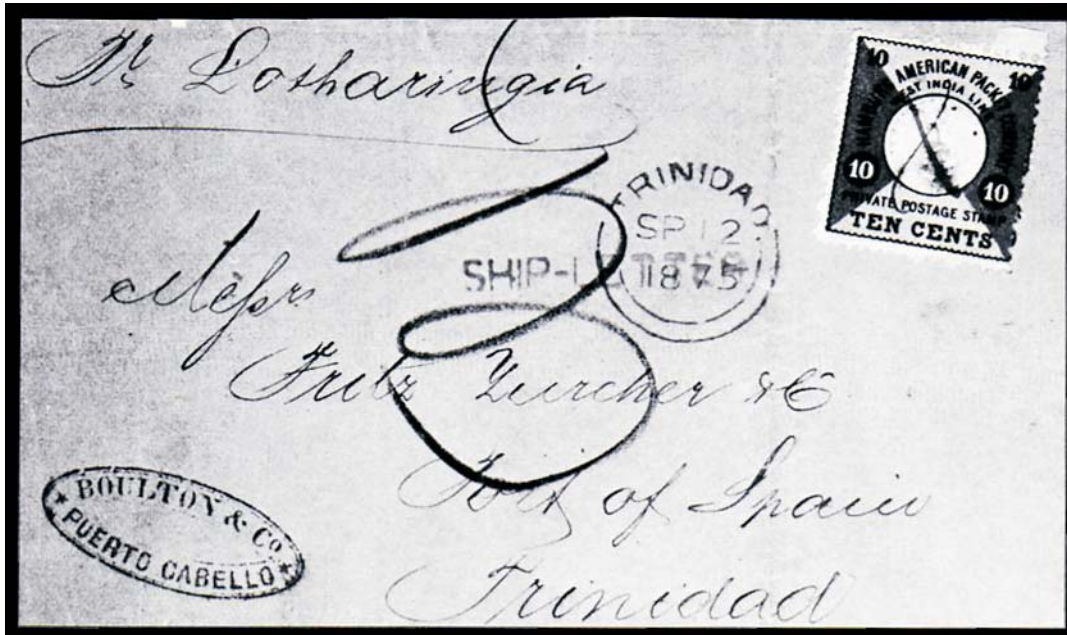


16. September 1875, entire from Caracas to Trinidad, arriving on 12 September 1875.



TRINIDAD

17. 7 September 1875, inscribed in manuscript 'per Lotharingia' and franked with a 10 cent adhesive of the Hamburg-Amerika Line, but with Forwarding Agents mark of 'BOULTON & Co/ PUERTO CABELLO'.

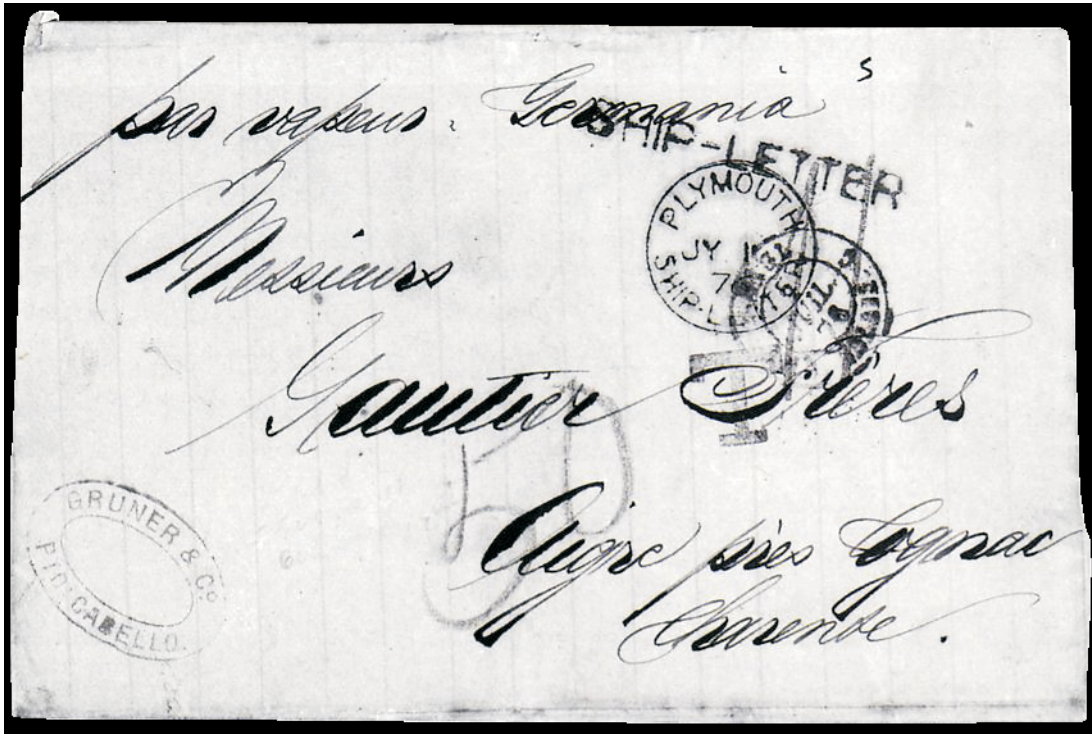


18. 10 September 1875, envelope to Trinidad where it arrived on 12 September; inscribed in manuscript 'per Lotharingia' and a 10 cent adhesive of the Hamburg-Amerika Line.



SHIP LETTER MARKS

19. 9 June 1876, entire from Puerto Cabello, Venezuela to a village near Cognac, France via Plymouth; it bears no adhesive thus taxed at 50 decimes on arrival. It also bears a manuscript mark 'par vapeur Germania' indicating that it was shipped by the Hamburg-American Line.



20. 22 July 1876 from Le Havre, France with a pair of 25 centime adhesives. Manuscript 'per Noisel' also displaying 'TOO-LATE' mark in red.



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21. 20 December 1876, entire letter bearing France Peace and Commerce 30 centime. strip of four (right stamp crossed by filing crease) tied by octagonal La Guayra datestamps and large blue crayon '3' rating, endorsed 'per Guyane', Trinidad double-arc arrival datestamp.

