Two November 1851 Shanghai - USA letters By Dr. Andrew Cheung FRPSL, AIEP

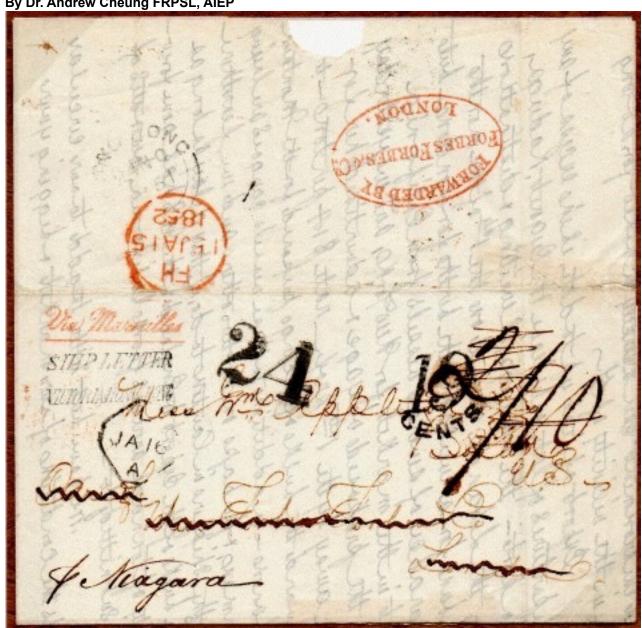




Figure 1 Figure 2

It is not often that one gets an chance to own two letters sent on the same day from the same place on almost the same itinerary and yet they show many differences. Illustrated here are two folded letters from Shanghai to U.S.A., figure 1 to Boston and figure 2 to New York, both sent via Hong Kong, Suez, Marseilles, London and then trans-Atlantic to U.S.A.

Figure 1

Dated "19 November 1851" Shanghai to Boston carried by HM Ship to Hong Kong ROUTE:

HMS Salamander from Shanghai 20 November to Hong Kong. Hong Kong arrival 24 November, *P&O Malta* to Galle, *Oriental* to Suez, overland to Alexandria. French Packet *SS Caire* to Marseilles Overland to London arriving on 15 January, Liverpool 16 January for trans-atlantic service to U.S.A. Cunard Line *Niagara* to Boston arriving New York on 7 February

RATE:

Sent as unpaid to England care of a Forwarding Agent who paid the 2s 10d portion of postage and forwarded to U.S.A. as unpaid. On arrival, 24¢ to pay made up of 5¢ U.S. inland and 19¢ credit to England made up of 3¢ British Inland postage + 16¢ sea postage (British Cunard line) as per 1848/9 Postal Convention For an ½ oz. unpaid letter sent by private ship to HK and by Packet mail via Marseilles to London

British French

Mediterranean transit HK Shipletter Total

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	British	French	Mediterranean transit	HK Shipletter	Total
	1s	5d	5d	1s	2s10d
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MARKINGS:

SHIPLETTER / VICTORIA HONG KONG, HONG KONG c.d.s. Webb type 9, 26 NO 1851 FORBES, FORBES & Co. London forwarding agent cachet 19 CENTS (credit to G.B.) struck at Liverpool (Robertson type M42 recorded from 1849) London c.d.s. 15 JA 1852, Liverpool L / JA 16 / A (Robertson type M28)

Figure 2

Dated "19 November 1851" Shanghai to New York carried by private ship to Hong Kong ROUTE:

Sent by private ship to Hong Kong; letter arrived on 26 November per Hong Kong datestamp *P&O Malta* 29 November to Galle, *P&O Oriental* to Suez. *SS Caire* to Marseilles, London 15 January Cunard ship *Niagara* left Liverpool on 17 January to Boston arriving New York on 7 February

RATE:

Since no Forwarding Agent was employed, the letter was sent unpaid to U.S.A. On arrival, 75ϕ to pay made up of 5ϕ U.S. inland and 70ϕ (2s11d) credit to England for the trans-Atlantic portion and the via Marseilles portion of the postage from Hong Kong to Great Britain For an ½ oz. unpaid letter sent by private ship to HK and by Packet mail via Marseilles

British French Mediterranean transit Trans-Atlantic

British	French	Mediterranean transit	Trans-Atlantic	Total	
1s	10d	5d	8d	2s11d	

Total

MARKINGS:

No *Shipletter Hong Kong* since this letter was carried privately to Hong Kong HONG KONG c.d.s. Webb type 9, 26 NO 1851 London c.d.s. 15 JA 1852 and letter annotated received on 7 February