

Two November 1851 Shanghai - USA letters  
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**Figure 1**

**Figure 2**

It is not often that one gets a 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 ¼ oz. unpaid letter sent by private ship to HK and by Packet mail via Marseilles to London

**British  
French**

**Mediterranean transit  
HK Shipletter  
Total**

<b>British</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Mediterranean transit</b>	<b>HK Shipletter</b>	<b>Total</b>
1s	5d	5d	1s	2s10d

**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, 75¢ to pay made up of 5¢ U.S. inland and 70¢ (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**

<b>British</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Mediterranean transit</b>	<b>Trans-Atlantic</b>	<b>Total</b>
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