

AMERICAN STEAMER VIA BRITAIN

**UNPAID MAIL WITH 2 FRANC ACCOUNTANCY MARK.
DOUBLE RATE COVER.**

With the ending of the US-French convention, letters previously sent in closed mail were now carried in the open mail and, from January 1868, treated as carried by American packet if travelling eastbound. For the carriage of unpaid mail, US claimed 4 cents from Britain (2c inland and 2c sea), or 8 cents as in the case of this double rate letter.



Unpaid entire letter from New Orleans to Montpellier, June 1871.

'NEW YORK / BR TRANSIT' cancellation.

'8' indicates the US debit to Britain for double rate letter per the '2' marking.

Cunard 'Russia' dep. New York 20 June, arr. Queenstown 30 June.

Accountancy mark 'GB / 2f' applied at London (transit cancellation on rear) to indicate British credit of 2 francs bulk rate per 30 grams.

Postage due '16' decimes, the rate for unpaid mail exceeding 10 grams until June 1871.

FCPS auction 30/1/2021

LOT 552

Reserve GBP40