## The Cost of Postage

This exhibit allows comparison of the cost of sending domestic letter mail prior to 1860. For each country examined, the period ends when imperforate stamps were replaced by perforated issues. To determine the actual cost to the postal patron, the silver content of each country's crown coin, or the circulating coin nearest to that value, is used. To normalize these costs, the actual silver content (absolute silver weight) of the crown coin is determined by multiplying the weight in grams by the percent purity. The absolute silver content, in grams, is then converted to United States cents based on the absolute silver weight (asw) of the 1840-1860 dollar coin. This cost in cents is shown in the box placed near each cover.

During the period under consideration, various schemes were used to calculate domestic postal rates. Some countries used a single, flat rate for all destinations within their boundaries (interior letters) while others used different rates based on the distance a letter was carried. These different schemes are organized together in the display to facilitate direct comparison and different colored boxed are used. Where countries used distance to determine the postal rate, such distances are converted to miles and noted in the pale green box near each cover. In addition some countries had special reduced rates for local mail. If the rates are for local mail, a pale red box is used and for interior mail schemes, a pale yellow box is used.

At the foot of each page is a table. The top row lists the crown coin that circulated in the country which is used to calculate the costs. The lower row provides information about the postal rates.

This exhibit will compare single-weight letter rates to eliminate any consideration of the weight differences. Additional fees that could be paid by stamps, such as for registry, certification, late mail and other are outside the scope of this study as are all postal rates for mail other than letters.

Countries that used a blanket, interior rate system are shown first, arranged in ascending order from least expensive. These are followed by countries using a distance based system. The reduced "local postage" items appear together at the end of the exhibit irrespective of the primary rating scheme employed.


| Great Britain 1 crown | $1839 / 1847$ | 60 pence | asw $=26.2$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| United States 1 dollar | $1840-1860$ | 100 cents | asw $=24.1$ grams |

## AUSTRIAN EMPIRE

## Austria 1850 Issue - 2 kreuzer



14 December 1850 Vienna local use, mute cancel

## Lombardy - Venetia 1850 Issue - 10 centesimi



18 August 1854 Verona to Borolone

| Austria convention thaler | $1840 / 1856$ | 120 kreuzer | asw $=23.4$ grams |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lombardy -Venetia scudo | $1840 / 1853$ | 600 centesimi | asw $=23.4$ grams |
| The postal rate for local district mail was the same in Austria and Lombardy-Venetia. Rates were expressed in <br> local currency with 2 kreuzer in Austria and 10 centesimi in Lombardy-Venetia. Rate in effect until 1859. |  |  |  |

## AUSTRIAN EMPIRE

## Austria 1850 Issue - 3 kreuzer



17 November 1854 Perchtoldsdorf to Vienna

## Lombardy - Venetia 1850 Issue - 15 centesimi



27 June 1850 Rovigo to Dolo, first month use

| Austria convention thaler | $1840 / 1856$ | 120 kreuzer | asw $=23.4$ grams |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lombardy -Venetia scudo | $1840 / 1853$ | 600 centesimi | asw $=23.4$ grams |

The postal rate for letters sent under 74 km ( 46 miles), expressed in local currency, was 3 kreuzer in Austria and 15 centesimi in Lombardy-Venetia. Rate in effect until 1859.

## AUSTRIAN EMPIRE

## Austria 1850 Issue - 6 kreuzer



| $4.86 \phi$ |
| :---: |
| 46 to 92 miles |

25 March 1851 Milano to Verona, a legal use from Lombardy - Venetia

Lombardy - Venetia 1850 Issue - 30 centesimi


## 23 October 1850 Treviso to Montova

| Austria convention thaler | $1840 / 1856$ | 120 kreuzer | asw $=23.4$ grams |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lombardy -Venetia scudo | $1840 / 1853$ | 600 centesimi | asw $=23.4$ grams |
| The postal rate for letters sent over 74 km and under $148 \mathrm{~km}(92$ miles), expressed in local currency, was 6 <br> kreuzer in Austria and 30 centesimi in Lombardy-Venetia. Rate in effect until 1859. |  |  |  |

## AUSTRIAN EMPIRE

## Austria 1850 Issue - 9 kreuzer



## $7.32 \phi$ <br> over 92 miles

23 July 1850 Neupacka to Vienna

Lombardy - Venetia 1850 Issue - 45 centesimi


10 August 1852 Milano to Padova

| Austria convention thaler | $1840 / 1856$ | 120 kreuzer | asw $=23.4$ grams |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lombardy -Venetia scudo | $1840 / 1853$ | 600 centesimi | asw $=23.4$ grams |

The postal rate for letters sent over 148 km (92 miles), expressed in local currency, was 9 kreuzer in Austria and 45 centesimi in Lombardy-Venetia. Rate in effect until 1859.

## BELGIUM

## 1849 Issue - 10 centimes



3 August 1849 Berzele, rural box origin, to Steenhuysen

## 1849 Issue -20 centimes



27 August 1850 Anvers to Bruxelles

| Belgium 5 franc | $1847 / 1858$ | 500 centimes | asw $=22.5$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate for letters under 7.5 grams, sent under 30 km (19 miles) was 10 centimes; over 30 km was 20 <br> centimes. The rates were in effect throughout the period to 1860. |  |  |  |

## BRAZIL

## 1843 Issue - 60 reis

```
    5.23$
    interior by land
```



20 January 1844 S. Joao Del Rei to Rio de Janeiro

| Brazil 1200 reis | $1834 / 1847$ | 1200 reis | asw $=24.7$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate was 60 reis for an interior letter to 4 octaves ( 15 grams) if sent by land. |  |  |  |

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

## VICTORIA 1850 Issue - 2 pence



18 April 1850 Geelong, Port Phillip to Melbourne, 2 pence, third printing numeral 15 butterfly cancel of Geelong

NATAL 1857 Issue - 3 pence

ca. 1857 Pietermaritzburg (PM Burg) to Durban

| Great Britain 1 crown | $1839 / 1847$ | 60 pence | asw $=26.2$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| British Colonies used the Great Britain crown. Most set interior rates at two pence such as Victoria or three |  |  |  |
| pence such as Natal. The postal rates applied to interior letters to one-half ounce, prepaid. |  |  |  |

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

## CANADA 1851 Issue - 3 pence



19 August 1858, Toronto to Hamilton, 3 pence soft ribbed paper

## NOVA SCOTIA 1851 Issue - 3 pence



6 June 1857 Halifax to Bridgetown

| Great Britain 1 crown | $1839 / 1847$ | 60 pence | asw $=26.2$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| British Colonies used the Great Britain crown. Most of the larger British colonies used a three pence rate. The <br> postal rate applied to interior letters as well as to inter-Colonial in B.N.A. to one-half ounce, prepaid. |  |  |  |

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

## NOVA SCOTIA 1851 Issue - 3 pence



NOVA SCOTIA 1851 Issue - 3 pence


23 July 1855 Amherst to Westmoreland, NEW BRUNSWICK

| Great Britain 1 crown | $1839 / 1847$ | 60 pence | asw $=26.2$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| British Colonies used the Great Britain crown. Most of the larger British colonies used a three pence rate. The <br> covers above show inter-Colonial rate being the same as internal rate in British North America. |  |  |  |

## BUENOS AIRES



12 November 1859 Buenos Aires to Goya

| Argentina 8 reales | $1838 / 1840$ | 20 Buenos Aires pesos | asw $=22.5$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rates in effect in 1859 <br> carried by sea. |  |  |  |

## CHILE

## 1854 Issue- 5 centavos



14 September 1854 Santiago to Valparaiso, 5c Desmadryl print

## 1854 Issue - 10 centavos



22 December 1855 Concepcion to Valparaiso water rate, 10c Desmadryl print

## DENMARK

## 1851 Issue - 2 rigsbankskilling



10 May 1853 Copenhagen local use, Thiele print

## 1855 Issue - 2 skilling



2 skilling, 13 October 1858 Copenhagen local use

| Denmark 1 species daler | $1840 / 1854$ | 192 rigsbankskilling | as $=25.28$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Denmark 2 rigsdaler | $1854-1856$ | 192 skilling | asw $=25.28$ grams |

The postal rate for a local letter was 2 rigsbankskilling until February 1854 when the rate was expressed as 2 skilling to reflect the new coinage that was simultaneously introduced.

## DENMARK

## 1851 Issue - 4 rigsbankskilling



21 June 1851 Kjöge to Slagelse, Ferslew print

## 1854 Issue -4 skilling



25 April 1859 posted on Holstein railway (numeral 169) to Lehe, Schleswig-Holstein Schleswig-Holstein was part of Denmark at this time

| Denmark 1 species daler | $1840 / 1854$ | 192 rigsbankskilling | asw $=25.28$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Denmark 2 rigsdaler | $1854-1856$ | 192 skilling | asw $=25.28$ grams |
| The postal rate was 4 rigsbankskilling for an interior letter until February 1854 when the rate was expressed as 4 <br> skilling to reflect the new coinage that was simultaneously introduced. |  |  |  |

## DENMARK

1858 Issue -4 skilling


30 December 1859 Fanø, Frisian Islands to Warde blue postmark and numeral 205 cancel

| Denmark 2 rigsdaler | $1854 / 1860$ | 192 skilling | asw $=25.3$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate for an interior letter was 4 skilling from February 1854. |  |  |  |

## FINLAND

## 1858 Issue - 5 kopecks



## 1856 Issue - 10 kopecks



7 July 1856 Helsingfors to Ny Karleby

| Russia 1 rouble | $1850-1859$ | 100 kopecks | asw $=18.0$ grams |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rates were 5 kopecks to 125 versts ( 83 miles) and 10 kopecks over 125 versts. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## FRANCE

## 1849 Issue- 20 centimes



30 March 1850 Mascara, Algeria to Elbeuf, France

## 1850 Issue - 25 centimes



1 July 1850 Axat to Montpelier, First Day Rate and First Day of Issue of stamp

## FRANCE

## 1853 Issue - 10 centimes



## 1859 Postage Due Issue - 10 centimes



24 February 1859 Chalon local use, postage due missed local mail delivery on 24th, "Aprés Le Départ" and postmarked next day on reverse

| France 5 franc | $1849 / 1860$ | 500 centimes | asw = 22.5 grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A uniform 10 centimes local postal rate was introduced on 1 July 1853 . A special postage due stamp was issued <br> for unpaid local letters in 1859. |  |  |  |

## HANNOVER

## 1851 Issue - 1 gutegrochen



14 June 1852 Herzlacke to Meppen

| Hannover 1 thaler | $1845 / 1860$ | 24 gutegrochen | asw $=16.7$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate for an interior letter was 1 gutegrochen. |  |  |  |

## HANNOVER to German-Austrian Postal Union

## 1851 Issue - $1 / 30$ thaler



1 September 1852 Glandorf to Münster, Prussia, corner copy with "10"


9 January 1853 Schladen to Wolfenbüttel, Saxony

## THURN And TAXIS POST SYSTEM

## 1852 Issue - 2 silbergrochen

### 4.61中 <br> 10 to 20 miles



18 November 1853 Cassel to Frankfurt

The Thurn and Taxis Post was the name of a privately operated postal system that operated in much of Germany in the 1850's. Adhesive stamps were denominated in kreuzer currency for use in the southern areas of Germany as well as in silbergrochen for use in northern areas including Hesse-Cassel.

| Hesse-Cassel taler | $1851-1860$ | 30 silbergrochen | asw $=19$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| In the North, the postal rates were 1 silbergrochen to 10 miles, 2 silbergrochen to 20 miles and 3 silbergrochen over |  |  |  |
| 20 miles. |  |  |  |

## WURTTEMBERG

## 1851 Issue - 3 kreuzer

$1.95 \phi$
under 12 miles


5 November 1854 Biberach to Buchau

| Wurttemberg 2 gulden | $1845-1860$ | 120 kreuzer | asw = 19 grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rates for a letter was 3 kreuzer to 12 German miles and 6 kreuzer over that. |  |  |  |

## GREAT BRITAIN

## 1840 Issue- 1 pence



17 April 1841 Stroud, via Nailsworth to Sheffield, adhesive from plate 8

## 1840 Mulready Issue - 1 pence



16 June 1840 Hull to London, misplaced stereo A68

| Great Britain 1 crown | $1839 / 1847$ | 60 pence | asw = 26.2 grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate for interior letters was one pence to one-half ounce, prepaid, from issue date of 6 May 1840. |  |  |  |

## GREAT BRITAIN

## 1840 Issue- 1 pence



## 1841 Issue- 1 pence



14 January 1847 Bognor to Whittinge

## INDIA

### 1.39 \$

interior


13 September 1856 Sukkor to Amristar, $1 / 2$ anna die III

| British India 1 Rupee | 1840 | 16 annas | asw $=10.69$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate for an interior letter was $1 / 2$ anna throughout the period before 1860. |  |  |  |

## MODENA

## 1852 Issue - 5 centesimi



16 March 1857 Reggio to Modena

## 1852 Issue - 10 centesimi



5 October 1853 Reggio to Modena

| Sardinia 5 lire | $1845 / 1860$ | 500 centesimi | asw $=22.5$ grams |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| From 4 September 1852 the letter rates were 5 centesimi to 10 Austrian miles ( 47 miles) and 10 centesimi <br> beyond 47 miles. |  |  |  |

## PAPALSTATES

## 1852 Issue - 2 bajocci



5 October 1858 Citta della Pieve to Montefiascone

## 1852 Issue - 4 bajocci



22 May 1855 Fano to Spoleto
Papal States 1 scudo 1846/1861 100 bajocci asw $=24.2$ grams

Before 1868 the postal rates in the Papal States were: 1 baj within same Directorate, 2 baj adjoining Directorate, and 3 baj to non-adjoining Directorate. Adhesive stamps placed on the reverse of letters indicates use as postage due on unpaid letters and are more common than prepaid letters..

## PARMA

## 1853 Issue - 15 centesimi



1 December 1854 Parma to Piacenza

| Parma 5 lire | $1832-1858$ | 500 centesimi | asw $=22.5$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate for letters was 15 centesimi for a letter to 17.5 <br> 25 grams sent under 10 Austrian miles ( 47 miles) and |  |  |  |$.$|  |
| :--- |

## ROMAGNA

## 1859 Issue - 1 bajocco



## 1859 Issue - 3 bajocci



15 September 1859 Firenze to Bologna

| Papal States 1 scudo | $1846 / 1861$ | 100 bajocci | asw $=24.2$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Before 1 November 1858 the postal rates were the same as Papal States: 1 baj within same Directorate, 2 baj adjoining Directorate, and 3 baj to non-adjoining Directorate.

## SARDINIA

## 1855 Issue - 5 centesimi

## $.94 \phi$

local


1 January 1860 Torino local use, $5 c$ brilliant yellow green shade

| Sardinia 5 lire | $1845 / 1860$ | 500 centesimi | asw $=22.5$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate for local letters to 7.5 grams was 5 centesimi. |  |  |  |

## SARDINIA

## 1851 Issue- 20 centesimi



## 1853 Issue -20 centesimi



## SARDINIA

## 1854 Issue - 20 centesimi



23 December 1855 Pontestura to Vercelli

## 1855 Issue -20 centesimi



21 April 1857 Levanto to Torino

## TUSCANY

## 1851 Issue - 2 crazie

### 2.62 \$

interior


2 July 1852 Livorno to Massa Carrara

| Tuscany 4 fiorino | $1845 / 1849$ | 80 crazie | asw $=25.19$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate of 2 crazie for interior letters was in effect until January 1860. |  |  |  |

## TWO SICILIES

## NAPLES 1858 Issue -2 prana



16 January 1858 Naples to Campobasso per S. Elia, 2 g plate I, double transfer
SICILY 1859 Issue - 2 gran


15 February 1859 Palermo to Messina

| Two Sicilies 120 grana | $1849-1859$ | 120 grant | asw $=22.9$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

The postal rate of 2 grana for a letter sent within the Neapolitan Kingdom was established when Naples issued stamps in 1858 . After Sicily issued stamps in 1859 , the rate was extended to include Sicily.

```
        .79$
    local district
```



22 December 1859 Castrovillari to Cerchiara, local district use

| Two Sicilies 120 grana | $1849-1859$ | 120 grana | asw = 22.9 grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The local postal rate of 1 grana for a letter sent within the same district in the Neapolitan Kingdom was established <br> when Naples issued stamps in 1858 . AfterSicily issued stamps in 1859 , the rate was extended to include Sicily. |  |  |  |

## LUXEMBOURG

## 1853 Issue - 10 centimes

### 1.87 \$

interior


14 June 1853 Remich to Luxembourg, 10c first printing, mute cancel

## MEXICO

## 1856 Issue - medio (one-half) real


$6.34 \phi$ interior

17 December 1856 Mexico City to Puebla used three days prior to rate increase

1856 Issue - one real


28 July 1859 Soyaniquilpan to Mexico City

## NORWAY

## 1855 Issue - 4 skilling

### 3.49 \$

interior


29 February 1856 Trondheim to Steinkjor

## PORTUGAL

## 1855 Issue -25 reis

### 2.38 $\$$ <br> interior



10 February 1858 Mirandella to Lisbon, numeral "184" cancel

| Portugal 500 reis | $1844 / 1860$ | 500 reis | asw $=11.5$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate was 25 reis for an interior letter. |  |  |  |

## RUSSIA

1857 Issue - 10 kopecks

## interior



23 June 1858 Kovno (now Lithuania) to St. Petersburg

## SPAIN

## 1850 Issue - 6 cuartos



1856 Issue - 4 cuartos


1 January 1856 Barcelona to Vich, First Day of Issue of stamp

## CANTON GENEVA

## 1850 Issue -5 centimes

```
.96$
local
```



14 December 1850 Geneva local use

| Geneva 5 franc | 1848 | 500 centimes | asw $=22.5$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| From 1 January 1850 the rate in Canton Geneva was 5 centimes for a local district letter to 10 leagues (47 miles) |  |  |  |

## SWITZERLAND

## 1850 Issue - 5 rappen



18 November 1850 Lausanne to Moudon

## 1854 Issue - 15 rappen



18 May 1855 Chur to Brigles, 15 r Munich print

| Switzerland 5 franc | $1850-1851$ | 500 rappen | asw $=22.5$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Until 1 January 1852 the rate for a letter sent to 10 wegstunde ( 30 miles) was 5 rappen. After that date and <br> continuing to 1860 , the rates were: 5 rappen to 6 miles, 10 rappen to 30 miles and 15 rappen over 30 miles. $\mathbf{l}$ |  |  |  |

## UNITED STATES

1847 Issue - 5 cents


20 August 1847 Syracuse to Albany, New York, second month of use of stamp

## 1847 Issue - 10 cents



16 May 1850 Cincinnati, Ohio to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | United States 1 dollar | $1840-1860$ | 100 cents | asw $=24.1$ grams |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

From July 1845 to July 1, 1851 the postal rate for a single letter sent under 300 miles was 5 cents. If sent over 300 miles the rate was 10 cents. Letters to and from California were 40 cents.

## UNITED STATES

## 1851 Issue -3 cents



28 July 1851 Lowell to Roxbury, Massachusetts, first month of use of stamp

## 1855 Issue - 10 cents



1 April 1856 Auburn, New York to San Francisco, California

| United States 1 dollar | $1840-1860$ | 100 cents | asw $=24.1$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rates were reduced from July 1, 1851. A letter sent under 3,000 miles was 3 cents prepaid and if |  |  |  |
| sent over 3,000 miles the rate was 6 cents. The 6 cent rate was increased to 10 cents effective 1 April 1855. |  |  |  |

## UNITED STATES



15 April 1854 New York "City Delivery Delivery Paid 1"

| United States 1 dollar | $1840-1860$ | 100 cents | asw $=24.1$ grams |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## VENEZUELA

## 1859 Issue - 1 real

```
    8.65$
interior by land
```



15 February 1859 Valencia to Caracas, second month use of stamp

| Venezuela 5 reales | 1858 | 5 reales | asw $=10.4$ grams |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The postal rate was one real for an interior letter sent by land. |  |  |  |

