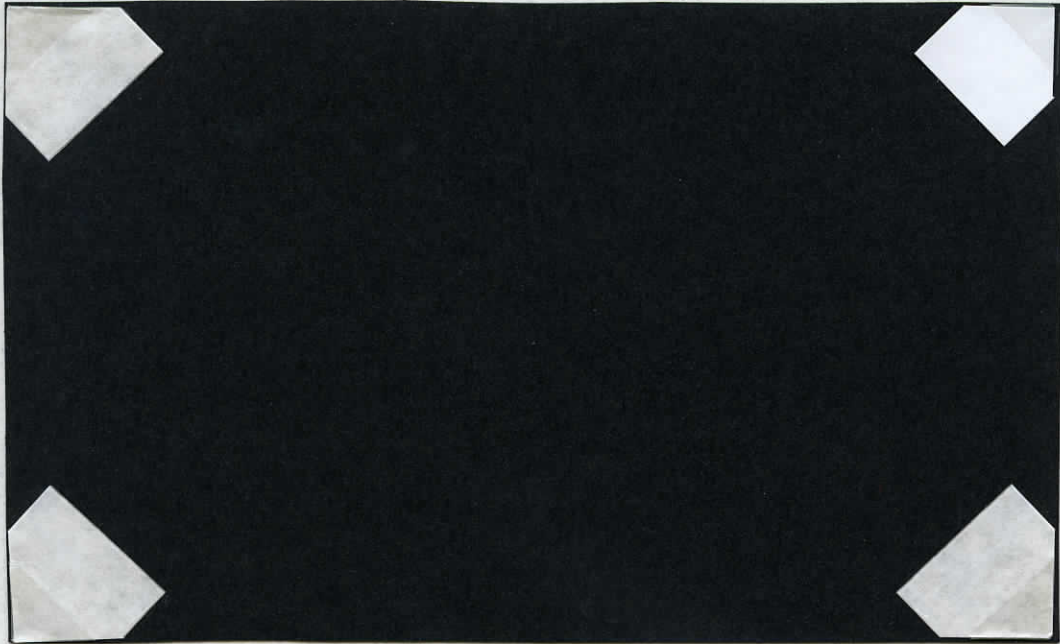


Mauritius
Under British Rule
1859

P&O Service AUSTRALIA - SUEZ via MAURITIUS (1859-60)
The P&O Str. 'NORTHUM'

The 4d Overseas Letter Rate
Port Louis to Marseille, France

1859 August 8th : Entire Letter, (verso) struck with the double circle 'GPO/MAURITIUS' despatch d/stamp for 'AU-8-1859'.



E. L. franked with a horizontal pair/oily impression of (1859 March) Q.V. 2d blue Lapirot issues/Early Impression/positions 11 & 12, and struck with the 'Target of 5 concentric circles', showing usage of the 4d rate indicating a weight upto ½ ounce which is the correct postal rates from the Government Gazette of 1st May, 1858, which shows rates to be used on and after 6th May, 1859.

On (recto) annotation 'P. Str. Northum-Via Suez' and oval cachet 'A. GOUDIN & CO., PORT LOUIS ILE MAURICE', and handstruck '8' decimes charge in black (due on arrival in France, with 8 decime = 7½ grams) under the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1856, with red French entry c.d.s.

The P&O Steamer 'NORTHUM' sailed from Sydney on schedule with the July mail and anchored in Port Louis harbour on 7th August. She left the next day for Aden and cleared the port on 17th August for Suez reaching on 28th August, after having been grounded on a reef in the Red Sea from 20th August to 25th August, (and succeeding in getting the ship afloat) the 'Northum' put her mail on board the P&O str. 'Panther' which sailed for Marseille via Alexandria, reaching there on 12th September 1859, taking 36 days of travel.