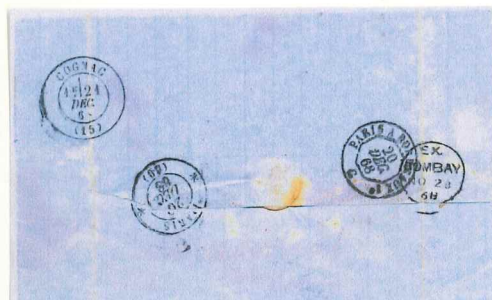


An entire letter from an Agent, Nowrosjee Ardaseer & Sos, Bombay to Messrs. Pinet Cascellon & Co, Cognac, France, concerning shipments of Brandy and Sole Agency. The letter is dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 1868.

The letter left Bombay On the 28<sup>th</sup> November 1868 and was transported via Suez to Marsailles. There is the Anglo French Accountancy Diamond GB over 1f66c. The letter was received in Paris on the 20<sup>th</sup> December and the transit mark "Paris a Bordeaux" also dated 20<sup>th</sup> December and the receipt stamp Cognac 1<sup>st</sup> delivery 24<sup>th</sup> December 1868. Transit time 27 days

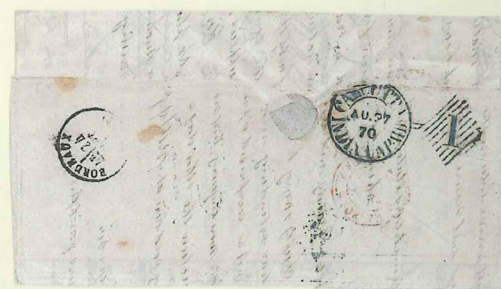


An entire letter from Bombay to France. The letter has no postage paid. The letter was despatched from Bombay in December 1863 on the reverse had the Bombay handstamp in RED probably indicating "unpaid". On the front is the handstamp in Black "INDIA UNPAID" in a rectangle. The letter has a **Marsailles** transit handstamp with the date 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1864 and a receipt stamp in Black with the date 8 January 1865. There is also a postage due stamp for Fr 1 66 Cents





An entire letter from Calcutta to Bordeaux, France. The letter was despatched on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1870 and on the reverse is the duplex ("Calcutta Unpaid") with the other part of the stamp showing fine lines from top right to bottom left enclosing the "1". This resembles the Bombay Local Cancellation (R.L.4h) except that it is unpaid. I can therefore be assumed that this is a Calcutta Local cancel. On the reverse is the Bordeaux arrival stamp. On the front is the transit stamp in **RED** and the **Green** stamp put on bearing letters tp France.



An outer cover for a letter posted by Amalric & Co., Pondichery, a French enclave on the East coast of the Indian peninsula below Madras. The enclave had its own postal service but mail was usually sent through British India. The instruction is for it to be sent by Steamer via Suez & Marsdailles. This cover has the handstamp of the French post office, Ponditcherry Bureau dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 1860. It would appear not to have been sent via Br. India. There is a transit mark, Suez 11<sup>th</sup> September 1860. A Paris Transit dated 12<sup>th</sup> September and a Nantes receipt 13<sup>th</sup> September.





An entire letter from Calcutta to Bordeaux, France. The letter is dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 1850. The forwarding instructions are per "Oriental" via Suez & "Marsailles". On the front is the rectangular "INDIA" (HG Type SD17 in use from 1846-55) and the circular transit stamp of "Marsailles". On the reverse is the "CALCUTTA ; G.P.O. ; SHIP LETTER ;" dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 1850 (HG SD21 in use from 1849-54). There is also the circular receipt stamp "Bordeaux 17 April 1850"

The entire would have arrived in Bombay and been loaded on the E.I.C. steamer "SESOSTRIS" which left on the 16<sup>th</sup> March arriving in Aden on the 24<sup>th</sup> March. It was then transferred to the P&O ship "ORIENT" which sailed from Aden on the 27<sup>th</sup> March arriving in Suez on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April. It was carried overland to Alexandria where it was loaded on the P&O ship "Indus" which sailed for Malta on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and then transferred to the ship "MERLIN" which sailed for Marsailles on the 10<sup>th</sup> April arriving in Marsailles on the 14<sup>th</sup> April and Bordeaux on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1850. Transit time; Approx 5 weeks.



An entire letter from Calcutta to Bordeaux, France. The letter is dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 1850.

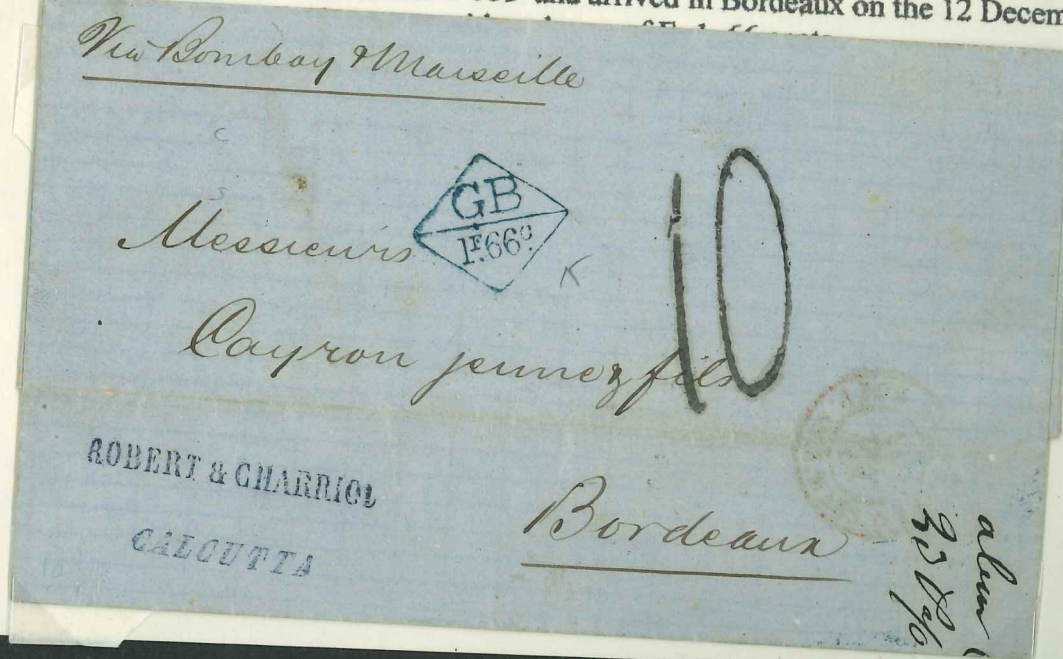
The letter was posted in Calcutta on the 8<sup>th</sup> and on the reverse is the rectangular "CALCUTTA-G.P.O.-SHIP LETTER-DATE" (HG SD21 in use from 1849-54). On the front is the rectangular handstamp "INDIA" (HG SD17 in use from 1846-55)

The letter left Bombay on the 17<sup>th</sup> April in the E.I.C. ship "MOOZAFFIR" on the 17<sup>th</sup> April arriving in Aden on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. The letter was then transferred into the P&O ship "HADDINGTON" which sailed for Suez on the 29<sup>th</sup> April arriving on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. The mail was then loaded into the P&O ship "Ripon" which sailed for Malta on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. The mail was then transferred into the H.M. Packet "Merlin" which sailed on the 10<sup>th</sup> May arriving in Marsailles on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1850. There is the Red arrival stamp on the front: and was delivered in Bordeaux on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. (Arrival stamp on the reverse) Transit time 6 weeks.

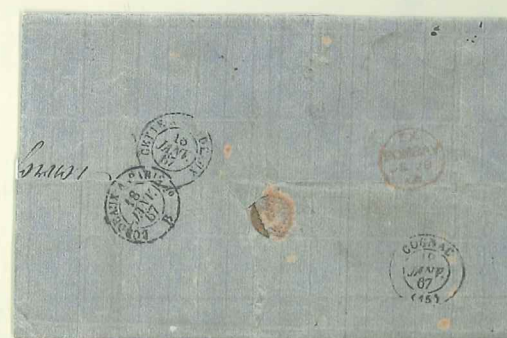




An entire letter written in French from a company in Calcutta to Bordeaux. Postage was not paid and on the reverse of the letter is a duplex cancel in Blue ink Similar to the Robson Lowe Type 10 for Bengal and Burma. It consists of a diamond of ten fine lines framing the office number. In this case the number 1 for the main post office. This was first used in 1862. Robson Lowe states "Late in 1862, we find Calcutta with the words "India Paid" in the lower part of the left duplex, between two circles. This was of course on letters for abroad, and it supercedes the old detached "India Paid ". There is no reference to "India Unpaid" but it must be assumed that the two duplexes were introduced at the same time. The letter was despatched on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1868 and arrived in Bordeaux on the 12 December.

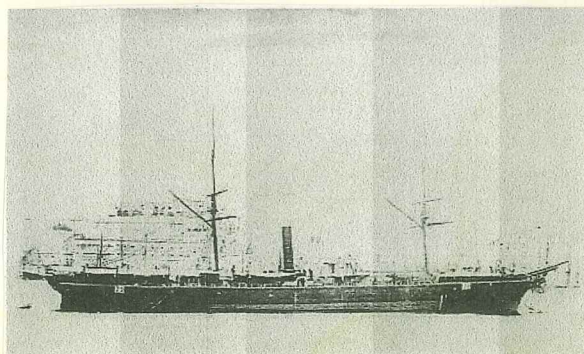
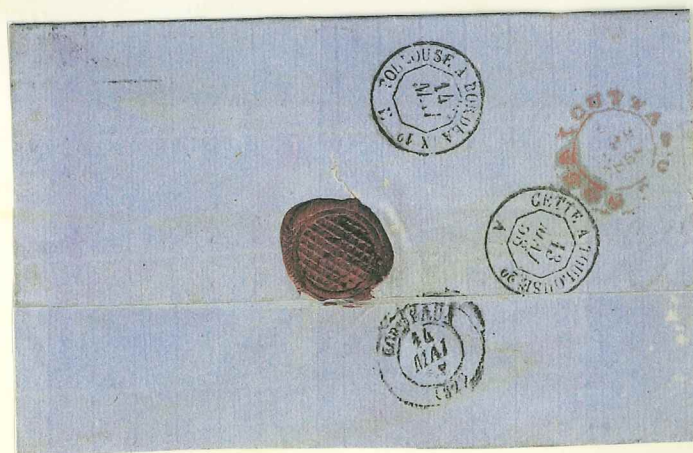


An entire letter from Bombay dated 28<sup>th</sup> December 1866 and addressed to a company in Cognac, France. On the reverse is the "Bombay" Dec28 "Despatch stamp (HG X11). Also on the reverse are two Bordeaux receipt stamps dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 1867 and a Cognac receipt stamp dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 1867. On the front is a "Suez ?1867" transit stamp and an Anglo French Accountancy Mark for 1F 66c. Transit Time 19 days.





A letter from Calcutta to Bordeaux, France dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 1858. On the reverse is a Calcutta stamp in **RED** (HGG22) in use from 1855-60. This was a general post office stamp. There is, however, the "India Unpaid" stamp in black (HG SD29 in use from 1857-62. On the front in **RED** is the Suez transit stamp with the date which appears to be 18<sup>th</sup> April. On the reverse are the following transit stamps "Gette a Toulouse 13<sup>th</sup> Mai", "Toulouse a Bordeaux" 14<sup>th</sup> Mai "and the arrival stamp" Bordeaux 14<sup>th</sup> Mai". The indication is that the letter was carried by the P & O ship "Bengal". This was a steamship of 2185 tonnes gross launched on the Clyde in 1852. After four voyages to the Mediterranean, she was sent round the Cape to Calcutta.. The letter clearly went from Calcutta direct to Suez, taking 10 days and was received in Bordeaux on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. A total transit time of approx. 5 weeks.



ss BENGAL

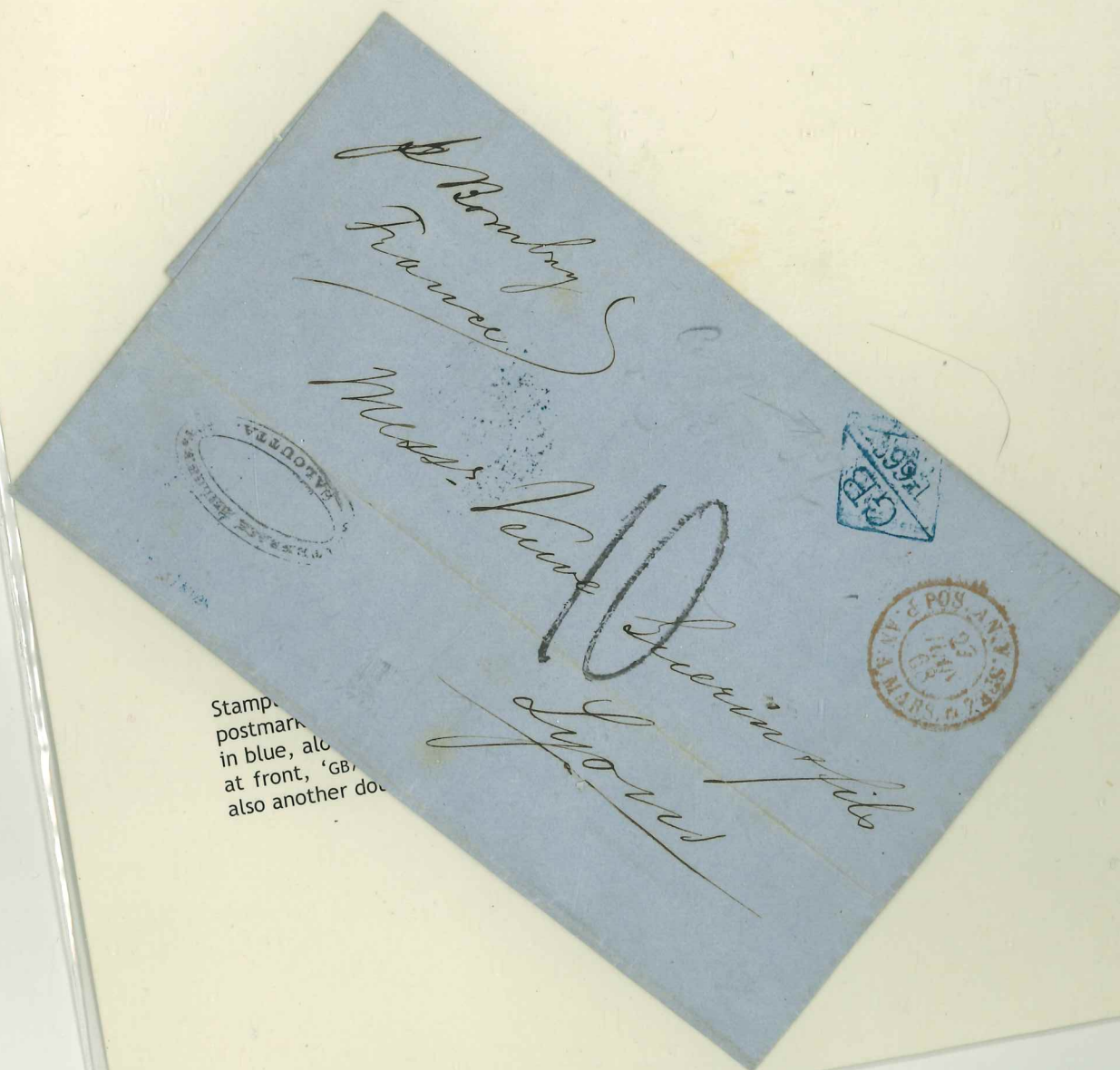
built by Tod & McGregor Glasgow,  
Yard No 67  
Engines by the shipbuilder

Port of Registry: London  
Propulsion: Two cylinder, beam geared steam engine, 1084ihp, single screw, 10 knots  
Launched: Saturday, 30/10/1852  
Built: 1853



gross launched on the Clyde in 1852. After four voyages to the Mediterranean, she was sent round the Cape to Calcutta.. The letter clearly went from Calcutta direct to Suez, taking 10 days and was received in Bordeaux on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. A total ransit time of approx. 5 weeks.

BRITISH INDIA  
POSTAL HISTORY COVER  
1868

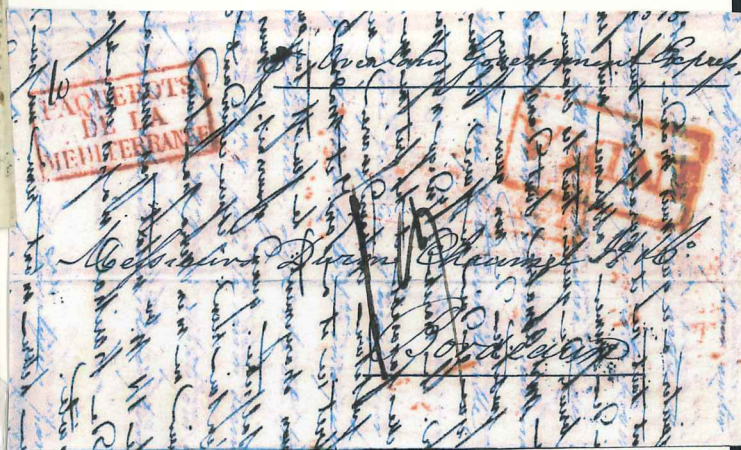
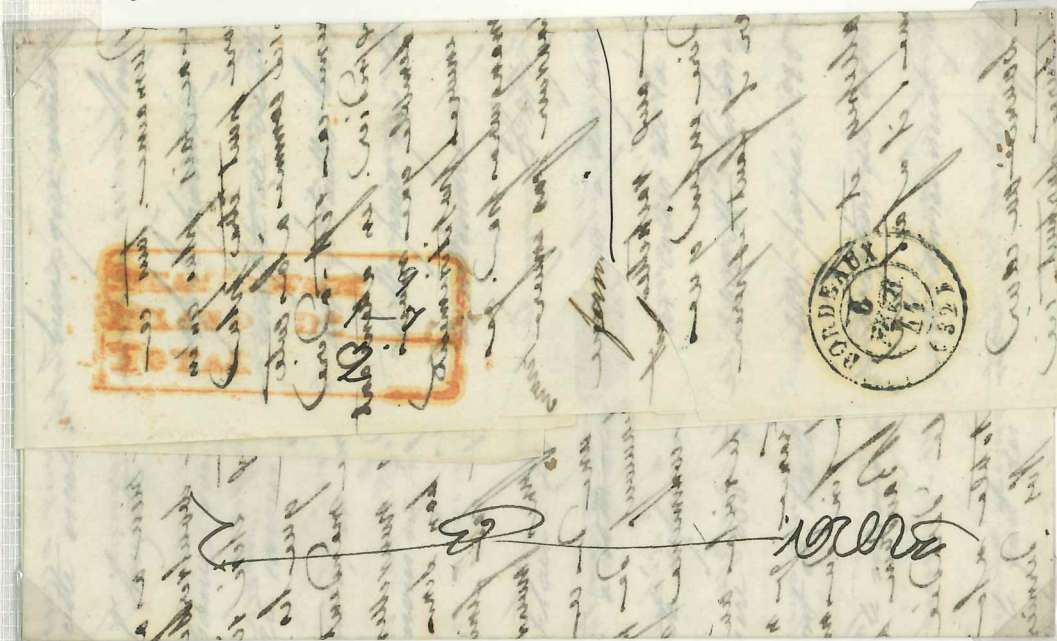


Stamp  
postmark  
in blue, also  
at front, 'GB',  
also another do.



An entire letter in French from Calcutta to Bordeaux. The letter is dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 1840. Posted in Calcutta where the hand stamp was applied. The rectangular **INDIA** is HG Type SD16, in use from 1838-45 and the **STEAM Postage** handstamp showing Steam Postage 9As and Inland Do 1Rs-7As Total Rs2-00 is a Calcutta despatch stamp HG Type SD13 in use from 1839-53. All letters sent to Continental Europe, Turkey, Greece, Etc., had to have the steamer postage paid in India and the stamp in red was used to indicate the amount paid. Up to 1845, the postage could not be prepaid on letters with a U.K. destination, so this stamp is never seen on letters to Britain.

The letter was despatched to Bombay and loaded with the mail on the E.I.C steamer "Victoria". This ship was built in Bombay in 1839 (714 tons, with a 230 H.P engine and 5 guns) The ship sailed for Aden and Suez on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1841 and arrived in Suez on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. The **Rectangular Handstamp "Paquebots de la Mediterranee"** was applied at this point. The mail was carried overland and arrived in Alexandria on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January and was loaded into the P & O ship "Orient" which sailed for Malta on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January arriving in Malta on the 27<sup>th</sup> January. It was transferred into the H.M. Packet "ALECTO" and sailed for Marsailles on the 28<sup>th</sup> January and arrived on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. It was delivered in Bordeaux on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1841. Transit time. 63 days.



An entire letter written in English to a Supplier of paper in Bordeaux referring to samples of letter paper to be sent so that an order can be placed.

The letter from Calcutta written on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1850. The reverse has a "**Calcutta Ship Letter**" despatch stamp (HG-SD21 with the date 8<sup>th</sup> April 1850. This stamp was in use from 1849 to 1854. There is the usual rectangular **INDIA** applied by the G.P.O. Calcutta. The mail left Bombay aboard the "Moozaffir" on the 17<sup>th</sup> April and arrived in Aden on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. It was then transferred to the "Haddington" which sailed on the 29<sup>th</sup> April for Suez arriving on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. It was then carried overland to Alexandria and loaded into the P & O ship Ripon, which sailed for Malta and arrived on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. It was again reloaded into the H.M. Packet Merlin which sailed from Malta on the 14 May arriving in Marsailles on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1850. On the front of the letter is the circular French transit stamp and on the reverse the Bordeaux receipt stamp. Transit time 41 days.





An entire letter from Calcutta to Bordeaux, France. On the front is the rectangular "INDIA" (The rectangle is 35mm X 18mm as per H G Type 1SD16 but the lettering is much heavier). There is also rectangular (PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE). On the reverse is the handstamp ("Steam Postage: Inland: TOTAL ") (HG SD13 in use from 1839-1853). This appears to have been used in place of the usual SD12. The date of the letter is 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1841. There is also the Marseilles transit stamp dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February and the Boirdeaux receipt stamp 7<sup>th</sup> February 1842.

The letter would have left Bombay aboard the E.I.C. Steamer "Cleopatra" on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1842 and arrived in Suez on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. It was loaded on to the "Orient" and sailed for Malta on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January arriving in Malta on the 28<sup>th</sup> where it was transferred to the "Prometheus". It arrived in Marseilles on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February and Bordeaux on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. Transit Time. 6 weeks.

