It is not often that one gets an 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:**

**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

**Figure 2**

British
French
**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Mediterranean transit</th>
<th>Trans-Atlantic</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>1s</td>
<td>10d</td>
<td>5d</td>
<td>8d</td>
<td>2s11d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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