



Jim
Taylor

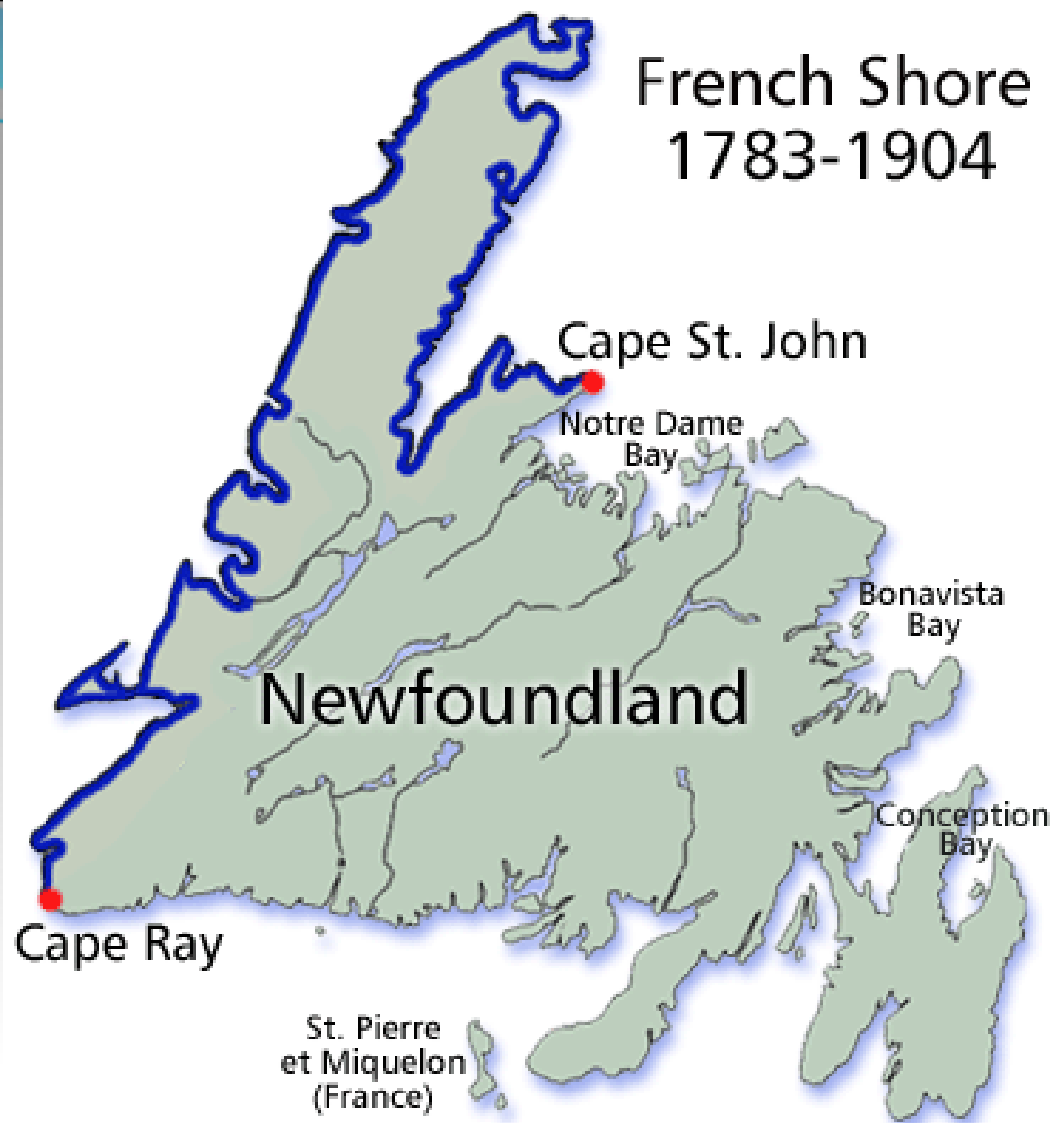
Alan
Moorcroft

Henk Slabbinck

Mail from the French Shore of Newfoundland

(Etablissements Français en Terre Neuve)

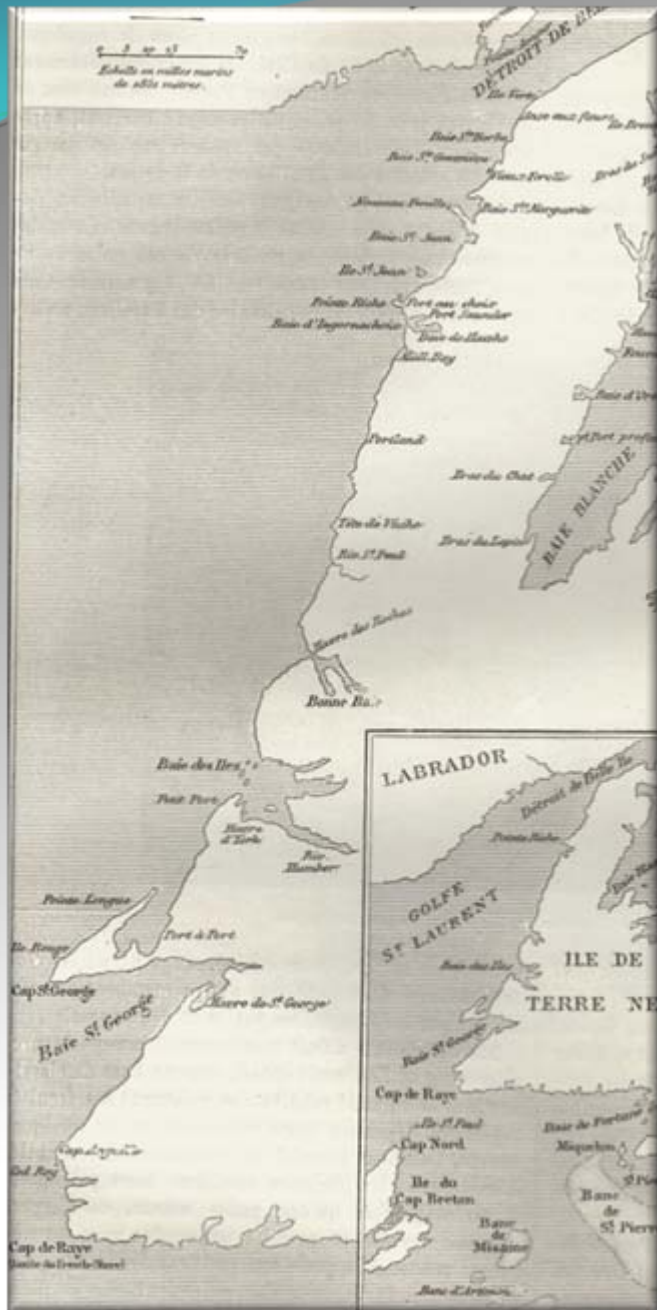
Henk Slabbinck (Belgium)
and
James R. Taylor (Canada)



French Shore 1783-1904.

In the Treaty of Versailles (1783) between Britain and France, the boundaries of the Treaty Shore were changed to Cape St. John and Cape Ray.

Map by Tanya Saunders. ©2001 Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage Web Site.



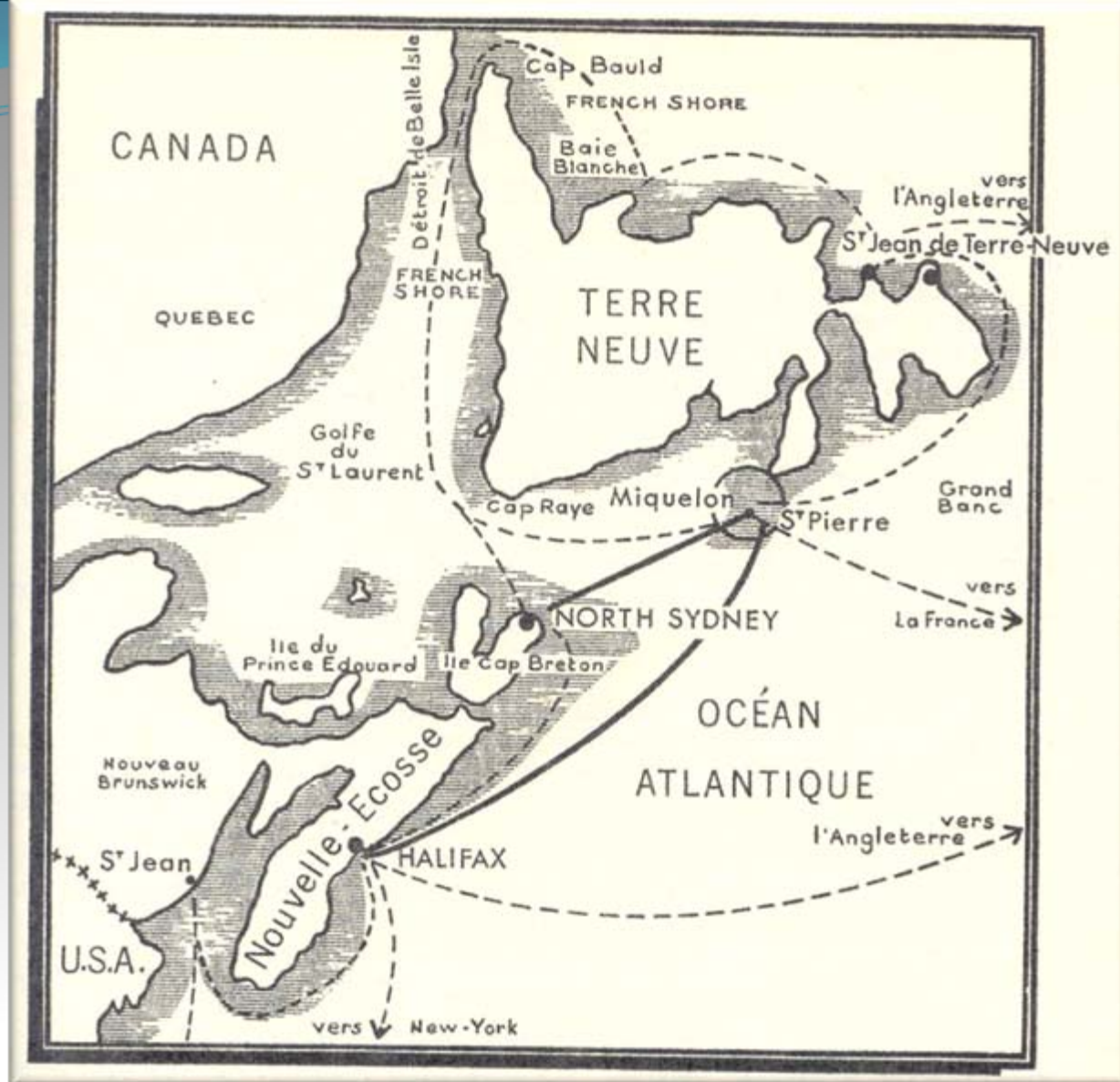
West Coast French Fishing Stations

Cod-Roy, Saint-Georges, **Ile Rouge**, Port-à-port, **Petit-havre ou Petit-port**, Anse à bois, baie du Gouverneur, Bonne-baie, Ingarnachois – **Port Saunders**, nouveau **Port-aux-Choix**, Anse de Barbacé, Ile Saint-Jean, Nouveau Férolle, Vieux-Férolle, baie Sainte-Barbe, pointe de l'Ancre, Anse aux Fleurs.

East Coast French Fishing Stations

baie de Haha, cap d'Oignon, baie aux Mauves,
Le Kirpon, baie du Nord,
les Criquets et le Cap-blanc, baie Saint-Lunaire,
île Granchain, Petits-bréhats, Anse Verte,
Grands-bréhats, baie Saint-Antoine,
la Crémaillère, **Champaga**, Anse à la soupe,
Trois-montagnes, **les Petites Oies**, **île de Fichot**,
havre du Four, les Petites-Ilettes, les Grandes-
Ilettes, les Grandes Oies, Petits-Saints-Juliens,
Grands-Saints-Juliens, **îles des Saints-Juliens**, **le**
Croc, anse aux Millions, Belle-Île, anse du Pilier,
cap-Rouge, **la Conche**, **Boutitou**, les Aiguillettes,
les Canaries, Raincé, **le Dégrat du Cheval**, Sans
Fond, Fourché, Orange, les Petites-Vaches, les
Grandes-Vaches, **la Fleur-de-Lys**, la baie Verte, la
baie des Pins, l'île-à-Bois, **Pasquet**,
le Grand Coup de Hache, le Petit Coup de Hache,
la Scie





Map of Atlantic Canada shows trans-Atlantic mail routes to North America and Europe (text in French)

(after Langlois and Parlange, 1958).

POSTAL COVERS 1820- 1884 are displayed in chronologic order in this presentation

Note that French Shore mail was carried only during the summer fishing season – earliest April – latest October. This was in accordance with Anglo-French Treaty provisions.

The vast majority of French Shore letters required the postal charges to be paid by the recipient.

Currencies: French: 1 décime = 10 centimes, 10 décimes = 1 Franc

British and British Colonies: 12 pence = 1 shilling

United States 100 cents = 1 dollar

Period 1820 - about 1849 mail was mainly via direct ship to enter the post in France

French postal markings on arrival

PAYS D'OUTREMER

COLONIES PAR ... and dated port cancel

PAYS OUTREMER and dated Port cancel

OUTREMER (with port name in box)

OUTREMER (Double-ring dated with port name)

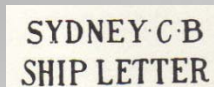
Le Cap Rouge was the French Shore 'administrative capital' and nearby, at **Croc** (or Croque), was the French Navy headquarters.

1836 - British commercial vessels were faster and routed the mail through British ports with implied additional postal charges.

1840s Mail often carried on British packets – scheduled, reliable, higher postage rates

Various usual routes from Halifax, Nova Scotia

(sometimes St. John's, Newfoundland)



British and British Colonial Postal Markings

'Ship Letter' markings, Sydney, Halifax and British Ports


Slogans with references to Postal Agreements

GB / *various exchange rates over time*



French Port and Town markings

“Unusual” routes – Saint Pierre, Sydney (Cape Breton), United States ports, via Sardinia

Today a single cover only, is reported from several French Shore points of origin. These are marked with a red rectangle  in this presentation.

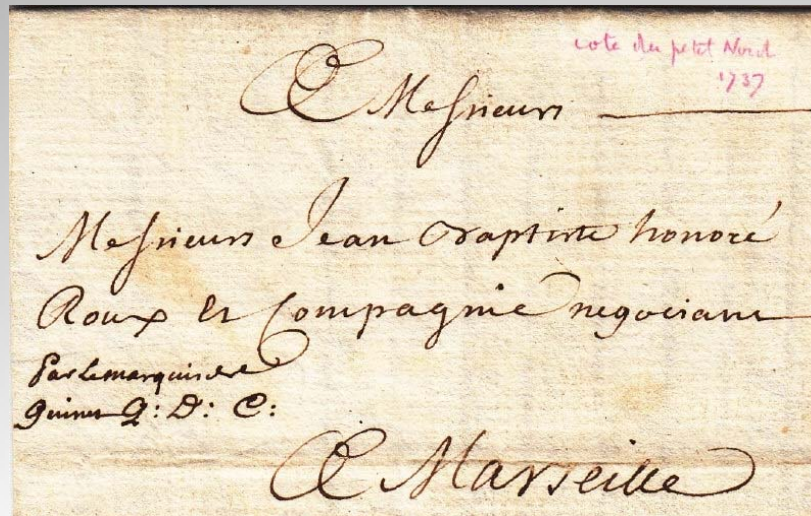
Many fishing stations, known from old French Naval maps, are still unreported on cover today.

The different known and accepted methods for forwarding mail during the French Shore period:

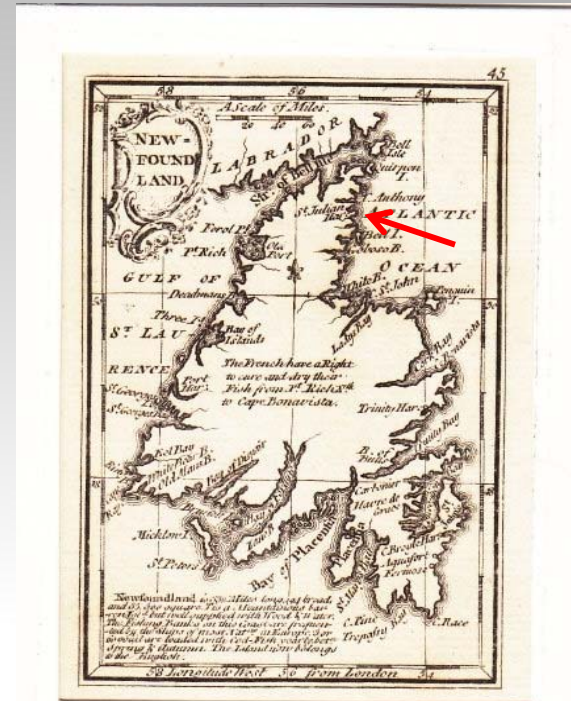
- **“Entrusted letter”** (*lettre confiée*) - a letter given- mostly to a ship captain for hand-delivery to the addressee, **without any intervention whatsoever** of a postal system
- **“Commercial route letter”** (*voie du commerce*) – a letter given to a ship captain with request to deliver it to the post office at the port of destination of the ship (or the first port of call in France)
- **“Regular maritime mail”** (*voie maritime*) – a letter given to any postal system and at the first possible occasion, with request to forward it to its destination. In this category we find the letters via
 - 1) the British Colony of Newfoundland capital of St. John's, Newfoundland
 - 2) Sydney, Cape Breton (CB), Nova Scotia
(a British colony, confederated with the Dominion of Canada after 1867)
 - 3) Halifax, Nova Scotia
(a British colony, confederated with the Dominion of Canada after 1867)
 - 4) Boston, United States of America

An exceptional early cover mailed from the French Shore - 1737

- The earliest letter known, posted from the French Shore, written on the 26 February 1737, at St. Julien (côte du Petit Nord) to Marseille .



Par le Marquis de Guines, Q.D.C.
(Que Dieu Conduise = Guided by the Lord)



The 1774 Bowen map showing St. Julien Har

Datelined "Saint Juliens cote du petit nord fe 26 1737"
bearing manuscript on front "Par le Marquis de Guines, Q. D.C."

Another exceptional early cover from the French Shore - 1789

This rare 18th Century folded letter is from Croc to Uzès.

It is datelined "10 juillet 1789"!

This is the day that the French Revolution started in Paris.



With the French Revolution, relations with Great Britain deteriorated until 1815 and the Battle of Waterloo.

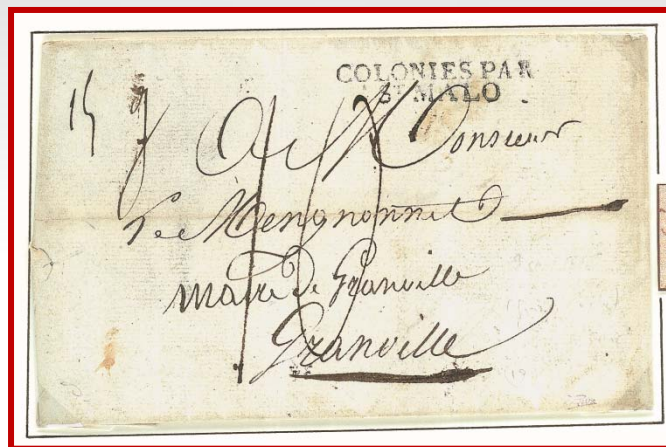
This letter carried by ship directly to France (*voie du commerce*) .
 Rated 7 decimes collect in France.
 6 decimes for an 8 gm letter 200-300 km
 by tarif of 24-4-1806 + 1 decime by sea.



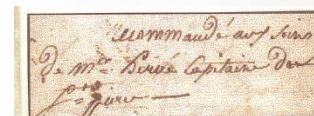
Postmarked
 COLONIES-PAR/ LA ROCHELLE used from
 1788 to indicate a letter originating in the
 Colonies and in general use until 1827

1820 (27 August) Conche to Granville

Champaga to St. Brieuc, France
 (*voie du commerce*) .
 This is the only cover reported from
 Champaga. It was carried on a ship
 direct to France.
 Rated 10 decimes for a 15gm letter



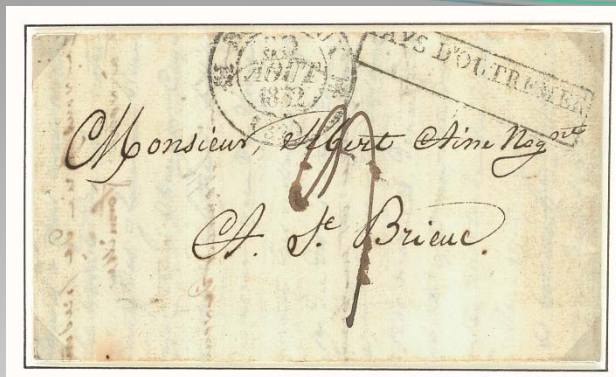
Postmarked
 COLONIES PAR/ ST MALO
 Manuscript on back: Deliver into
 the care of Captain M. Hervé out
 of St. Pierre



1825 (September 9) Champaga to Granville

1820
 1825

Rated at 9 decimes with a decime
towards the sea postage



Boxed PAYS D'OUTREMER
Double Ring BORDEAUX

1832 (July 7) Cap Rouge to St. Brieuc

The letter traveled by a French
fishing vessel directly to France.
The folded letter entered France
at Roscoff. It was carried from
Roscoff to St. Pol de Leon and
on to St. Brieuc.



Letter manuscript header



Manuscript 9, for 9 decimes was
due from the recipient.
A double circular postmark reads
ST POL-DE-LEON/ 22/ OCT/ 1832/
(28).
On the lower right is the two-line
italic L S/ Roscoff.
Bottom right is the straight line
S^TPOL DE LEON.
The letter is back stamped with a
double circular * ST. BRIEUC * /23/
OCT/ 1832/ (24).

1832 (September 24) Cap Rouge to St. Brieuc

West Coast Newfoundland Origins

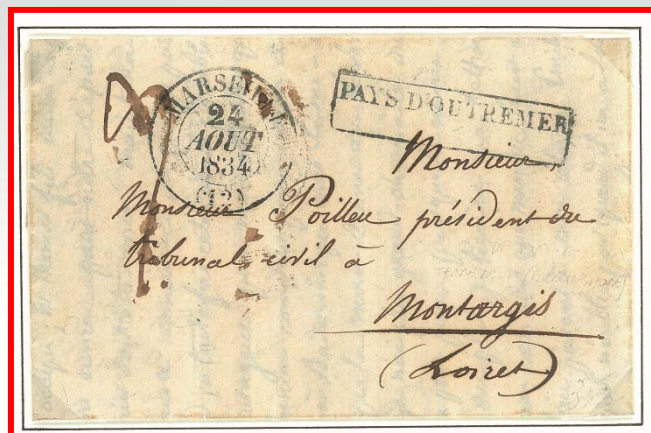
Port Saunders is located in the Baie D'ingomachoix on the west coast. Sent by a naval officer of a French fisheries patrol vessel. Scarce route. Rated at 21 decime in error



PAYS D'OUTREMER
Double-ring MARSEILLE/ 17/ SEPT./ 1833/ (12)

1833 (July 16) Port Saunders (West Coast) to Etampes

Rated at 9 decimes
(8 decimes for 7.5 gm for 500-600 km + decime for sea postage)



PAYS D'OUTREMER
Double-ring MARSEILLE/ 24/ AOÛT/ 1834/ (12)

1834 (July 16) Port à Choix (West Coast) to Montargis

Rated at 30 decimes (12 decimes for a letter 10-15g from 400-500km + 18 decimes for the English under the tariff of 1836 with England. 1/6 credited to the British by France

To France via Liverpool by British commercial ship out of St. John's, Newfoundland

P.O.S.L.L. In manuscript (Post Office Ship Letter London)



Boxed 'Ship Letter' (London)
SHIP LETTER (London) Front
Entry double-ring marking in red
'*ANGLETERRE PAR CALAIS' 1D in oval
for rural delivery charge
Backstamped LIVERPOOL/ SHIP LETTER



Backstamps

1836 (August 4) La Scie to St. Brieuc

Rated 7 decimes



COLONIES PAR/ PAIMPOL

1837 (September 13) Cap Rouge to Granville

SYDNEY C.B. SHIP LETTER

From an unidentified French Shore fishing station to St. Servan, France
The letter was carried by a private ship to Sydney, Cape Breton.
It was forwarded by ship to Halifax, Nova Scotia.
It was sent via closed bag mail Halifax to London via Liverpool per the British Cunard packet "Europa".
It then crossed the English Channel to Boulogne.



1849 (April) French Shore to St. Servan
(ex Allan L. Steinhart)

"voie d' Halifax" in manuscript.
Handstamp SYDNEY C.B. SHIP LETTER. Scarce marking
At Halifax date stamp "H AP 30 1849 NS" applied.
The receiving mark "MD 15 MY 15 1849" applied in England.
English Channel to France where the boxed "COLONIES &c ART. 13.", "ANGL 16 MAI 2 BOULONGNE 2", and "ST. SERVAN 16 MA 49" were applied.
Manuscript "17" 10 decimes Great Britain debit to France and 7 decimes for the internal French postage fees.

Rated 11 decimes by the tariff of 1-8-1849 with Sardinia.
Routed via Italy – Genoa.



1849 (August 5) Cap Rouge to Le Portrieux

T.S.1.
PAR/ DE MARE/
Double-ring GENOVA/ 11/ SEPT/ 49/ *

Only 3 letters are known to have used this route

Rated at 15 decimes (10 decime for the British). Manuscript 1/10 for the British Office
Sent via England and cross-channel via Boulogne to St. Brieuc.



COLONIES
&cART.13.

COLONIES/ &cART.13. (used 1846-1855)
Double ring ANGL./ 12/ SEPT/ 50/ BOULOGNE

1849 (August 28) La Scie to Lugué

Rated at 35 decimes (includes 6 decimes to Marseille)
Some confusion over which handstamp applied either 'Outre Mer' or 'Colonies Fra.'



Double ring COLONIES FRA./11 AOUT/
50/ MARSEILLE and
Double ring OUTRE MER/ 10/ AOUT/
50/ MARSEILLE

1850 (July 2) La Crémaillère to St. Brieuc

1849
1850
16

Rated 11 decimes from the tariff in force from Jan 8, 1849 with Sardinia



T.S.1.
VIA/ DE MARE/
Double ring GENOVA/ 30/ SEPT / 50

1850 (July 24) La Crémaillère to Légué

Rated 6 decimes (overseas flat rate)
Direct entry into France.



Circular OUTRE MER/ 30/ AOUT/ 52/ GRANVILLE

1852 (August 9) La Crémaillère Shore to Légué

Then sent via the Carried to
St. John's, Newfoundland then by
British packet with arrival in London.
Crossed the English Channel to
Granville via Paris.
Rated 15 decimes



"ST. JOHN'S
NEWFOUNDLAND JY 29 1856"
circulated dated cancel on reverse
manuscript "2", "1/2", Anglo-
French accountancy handstamp
"COLONIES/ ART - 18" in red which
is exceptional on Newfoundland
mails. In black "ANGL CALAIS 26
AOUT 56" and "15" handstamp,
Back stamped London (Aug. 26),
Paris (Aug. 27), and Granville (Aug.
28)

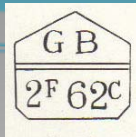
1856 (July 15) Trois Montagnes to Granville

Carried to St. John's,
Newfoundland then by British packet
with arrival in London. Crossed the
English Channel to Granville via Paris.
Rated 15 decimes



COLONIES/ ART - 18
Double-ring

1856 (July 21) Fleur de Lys to Ligué



SYDNEY C-B
SHIP LETTER

The cover was carried by private ship to Sydney, Cape Breton. It was sent by mail boat to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The letter was then dispatched by closed bag mail via the Cunard steamer "Canada" to Liverpool. Then routed via London, across the English Channel to Calais, Paris, Brest, and finally arrived at the port of L gu  at St. Brieuc .



1858 (July 14) La Scie to L gu 

Rated 12 decimes collect. The handstamped "3" is the Nova Scotia 3d. internal rate which was not collected. The scarce G.B. 2F 62 Anglo-French accountancy handstamp was applied under Article 44, effective Jan. 1 1858. The letter is handstamped "'ANGL. 6 SEPT. 58 AMB. CALAIS M" on reverse with octagonal "SHIP LETTER / HALIFAX, N.S. / 26 AU 1858", "LONDON WA SP 6 1858", "PARIS 7 SEPT 58", "PARIS A BREST 7 SEPT 58", "ST. BRIEUC 8 SEPT 58".

Via Halifax rated similar to the cover shown above.

It was carried from the French Shore to Halifax by private ship.

Then by Cunard packet "Niagara" to Liverpool, London, then to France.



1858 (August 25) La Scie to L gu 

GB/ 2F62c
SHIP LETTER HALIFAX 26-8

Rated 4 decimes (3 decimes of 1-7-54 and decime sea postage.

Via St. Pierre
(French territory of St. Pierre & Miquelon)

Carried on a ship from St. Pierre direct to France there by avoiding the British charges.



1858 (July) Petites Oies to France

Double ring ILES ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON/ 14/ JUIL./ 1858

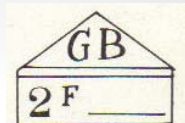
Double ring COL.FRA./ST NAZAIRE



Backstamps

The 10 represents 10 decimes .

The GB 2F _____



Receiving mark 20 mm
COL.FRA./ 8/ JUIL./ 61/ AMP
CALAIS E.

Via Halifax. The letter was carried by private ship to connect with the British packet at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The letter passed through the British exchange office, crossed the Channel at Calais and sent overland to Ligué.



1861 (June 9) Havre des Petites Oies to Ligué

1860
1861
20

Reçu des petites oies le 9 juin. 1861

ROUTES VIA THE UNITED STATES

Via New York, United States with 3-cent fee payable to the American Post Office. Rated at 8 decimes based on the tariff of Jan 4, 1857. Carried on the 'Persia' of the Cunard Line.



Circular NEW 3 YORK/ AUG/ 28

3 ETATS-UNIS 3/ 9/ SEPT/ 61/ SERV. BRIT. CALAIS



(Var 16)
Backstamp

1861 (August 17) On Board - Grand Banks to Granville

Via Boston, United States.
Rated at 30-cents and pre-paid with a 30-cent United States stamp.
Ship the 'Java' of the Canard Line

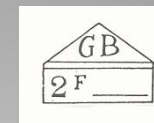


Circular BOSTON/ NOV/ 20/ PAID/ 24

3 ETATS-UNIS 3/ 9/ SEPT/ 61/ SERV.
BRIT. CALAIS

1867 (November 24) French Shore to Granville

Rated at 12 decimes the tariff
 Exchanged at 2f
 Newfoundland to England.
 The letter travelled on the 'Nova
 Scotian' of the Allen Line from St.
 John's to ..."



GB/ 2F ____ (Used 1858-1874)
 Double ring ANGL/ 24/ AOUT/ 71/
 AMb.CALAIS.E

1871 (July 16) Dégrat du Cheval to Légué, France

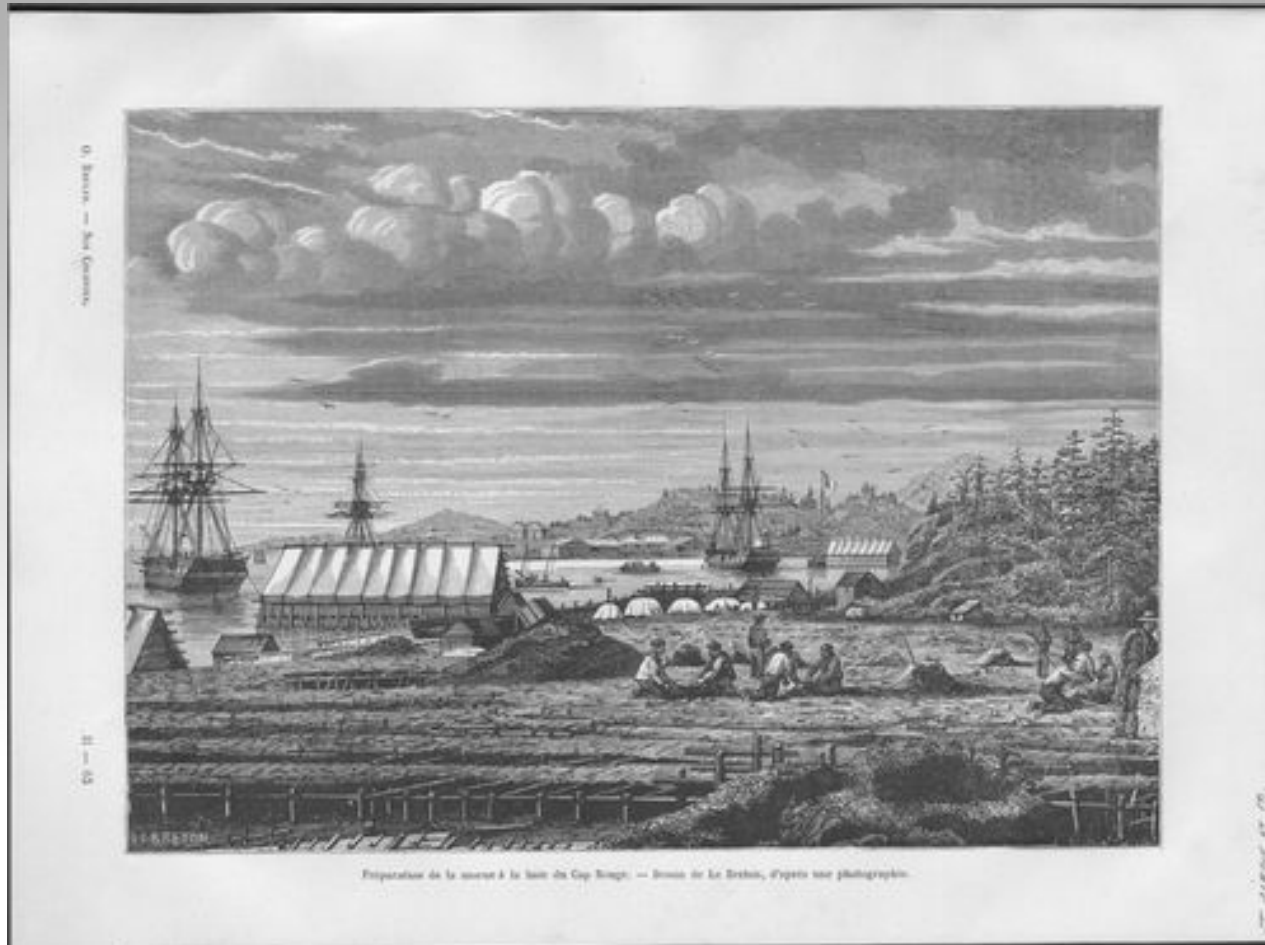
Exchanged at GB1f60 and rated at
 10 decimes the tariff for
 Newfoundland to England.
 The letter transited St. John's,
 Newfoundland, received the
 Swansea, Wales ship letter cancel
 and the London Ship letter
 marking on the reverse . The
 arrival at Swansea – was this
 destination normal for a regular
 shipping line or did the letter
 arrive by fishing vessel?



GB// 1F60c (Used 1857-1875)
 SWANSEA/ SHIP LETTE
 Double ring ANGL./ 5/ JUIL./ 71/
 AMb.CALAIS.E

1871 (July 16) Fleur de Lys to Légué

Unusual usages to and from the French Shore



Préparation du laurier à la suite du Cap Rouge. — Dessin de La Bretonne, d'après une photographie.

1847 St. Pierre to France. Via Bangor and by rail to Bryan & Son, Boston, USA.
Carried by *Caledonia* of the Cunard Line.
Overweight letter probably contained a bundle of letters within the outer wrapper.
Exceptional rate 7F 20c ! 40 décimes for England, 32 décimes for France



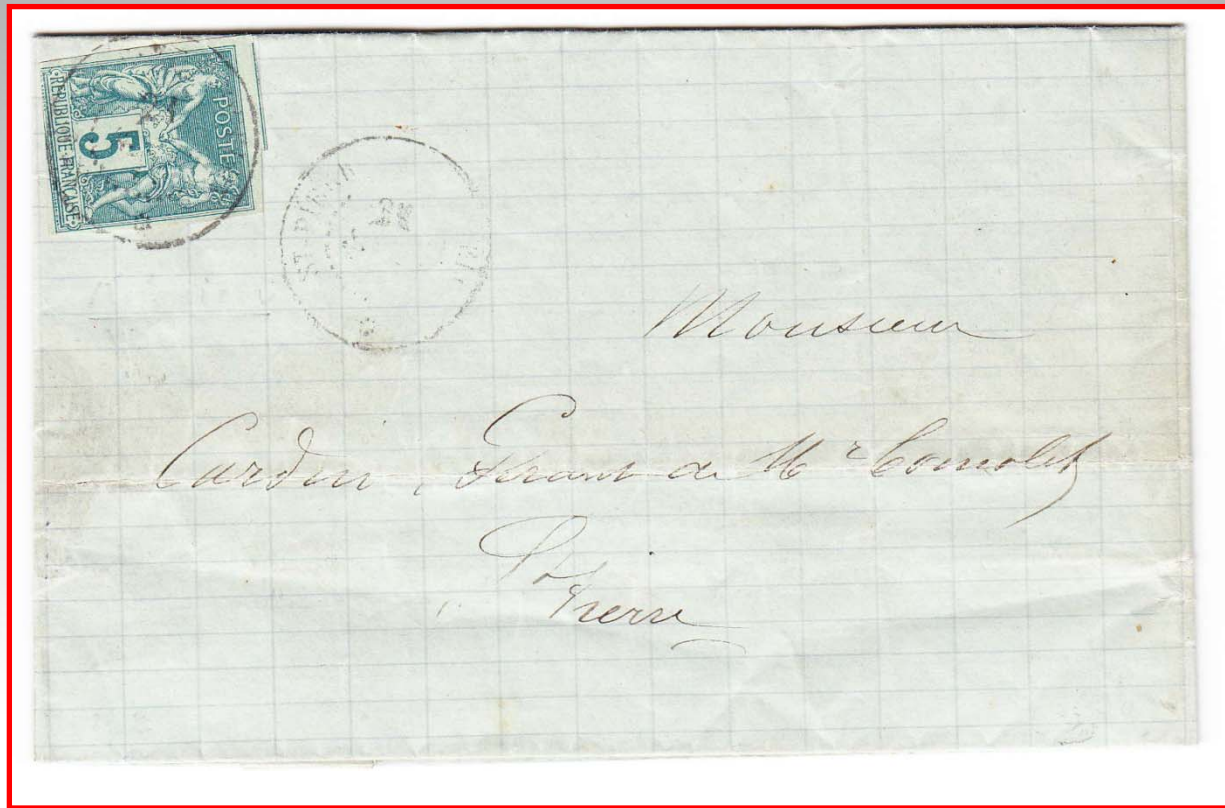
St. Pierre to St. Servan, France

Unusual usages to and from the French Shore

1879 Ile Rouge (West Coast) to St. Pierre & Miquelon.

A single 5c stamp was bought in St. Pierre pay for local delivery.

The only letter known using a 5c 'Sage' stamp for the local rate at St. Pierre



1879 (September 10) l'Ile Rouge to St. Pierre & Miquelon

1884 One of a few known inbound covers to the French Shore from France
Only two inbound letters are known to La Crémaillère



1884 (July 13) Plerin, France to La Crèmaillère

Conclusions

- The French Shore of Newfoundland has an fascinating history and postal history which is not well known yet. The French period in Canadian postal history ended in 1904 not in 1759, as commonly thought.
- Covers from the French Shore in the second period 1783 – 1904, usually stampless folded letters, are scarce to rare. As probably quite a few covers originating on French Shore fishing stations have not been reported the chances for new postal history finds exist.
- The identification of letters from the French fishing stations on the French Shore, both to France and other destinations takes some knowledge and research. It involves careful examination of manuscript letter headings, letter contents and the manuscript routing instructions. Clues also lie in the postal markings applied at the various way-offices along the letters' journey and destination receiving markings.
- French shore mail may sit on collectors' album pages unrecognised.