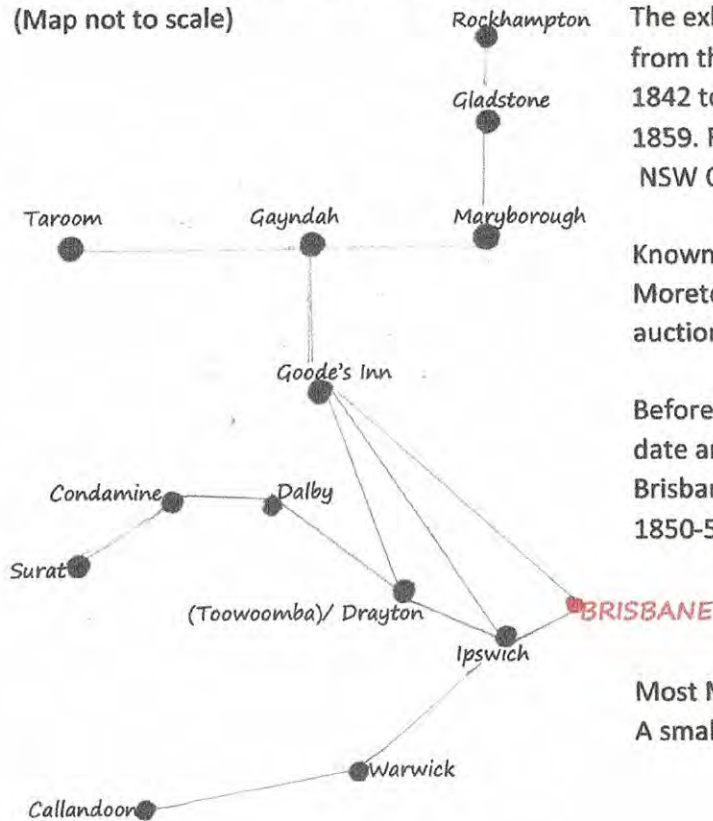


THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

POST OFFICES AND MAIN MAIL ROUTES 1842-1859

(Map not to scale)



The exhibit shows the operation of the Brisbane NSW Post Office from the start of free settlement in the Moreton Bay District in 1842 to the establishment of the Colony of Queensland in December 1859. Rates and Routes via Brisbane are illustrated.

NSW Cancellations on NSW stamps used in Brisbane are shown.

Known pre-stamp inwards mail items into or through Brisbane to Moreton Bay District are less than 40 items (this is calculated from auctions, sales and collections (e.g. Griffiths, Forster) 1990 to 2020).

Before 1850, when NSW issued stamps, no canceller was used although date and PAID marks are known. From Jan. 1st 1850

Brisbane was issued with NSW canceller number 95. Stamp issues 1850-59 were Sydney Views, Laureates, Diadems & Registration

Most Moreton Bay mail entered through Brisbane. A small volume of mail came overland via New England.

Plan of Exhibit:

1. Page 1 Subject and Plan of exhibit
2. Page 2 The early years from 1830
3. Page 3 NSW stamps 1850-59 used in Brisbane
4. Pages 4 - 6 Pre-stamp mail (inward and outward; including 1843 with GB stamps)
5. Pages 7 - 10 Overseas mail (including India)
6. Pages 11 - 12 Registered mail
7. Pages 13 - 15 Internal mail (including redirection)
8. Page 16 Intercolonial mail at end of Brisbane NSW period

After Dec. 1859, NSW stamps used in Queensland until Queensland stamps were issued are **not used in NSW**, They are classified as "used abroad".

Bibliography:

Brisbane General Post Office (Australia Post)

Postal History of NSW (White)

Queensland Postal History (Campbell)

Moreton Bay Almanac (Pugh)

Numeral Cancellations of NSW (Freeman)

Queensland State Library material (various authors)

Moreton Bay Courier (TROVE)

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

Prologue - The years before 1842.

During the convict period to 1839 the Clerk to the Commandant dealt with convict mail. He was regarded as the Postmaster. In 1830 William Whyte was appointed to this position. Whyte was one of the few settlers, who had had work associated with the convict settlement such as Clerk of Works or Surgeon, who remained when, in July 1839, all but a handful of convicts and soldiers left Brisbane. After Peter Spicer (Superintendent of Convicts) departed, his quarters were assigned to William Whyte. Wade's 1842 map shows these quarters as "Post Office".

Post Office history 1842-59.

On 13th August 1842 George Slade became Postmaster (part of his responsibilities) due to Whyte's declining health. On March 1st 1852 Captain John Barney was appointed the first full time Postmaster. On 25th November 1855 he died and his widow was appointed Postmistress. She was responsible for the considerable expansion of postal services in New South Wales and Queensland to 1863. (Brisbane was raised to General Post Office in May 1860).

Original Post Office building

The original Post Office Brisbane was part of the building built in 1829-30 for the Superintendent of Convicts. This building had about 30 feet of street frontage, complete with horse hitching posts.



First New South Wales stamps with NSW canceller 95 issued in Brisbane January 1st 1850.

Sydney Views



1d



2d



3d

Note: postmark references in this exhibit refer to identification in White "The Postal History of NSW 1788-1901"

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

NSW STAMPS USED IN BRISBANE WITH NSW CANCELLATIONS

Stamps cancelled by NSW bar canceller 95 (1850 -1856)

Laureate stamps issued 1851-1853.



1d (1851)



2d(1851)



3d (1852)



6d(1852)



8d(1853)

Diadem stamps issued 1854-1856)

Registered stamp issued 1856



1/- (1854)



1d(1856)



registered (6d value)

Stamps cancelled by NSW ray canceller 1857-1860

Diadem stamps issued 1854-1856

Registered 1856



6d(1854)



6d(1854)



8d)1854)



1d(1856)



2d(1856)



3d(1856)



registered
(6d value)

NSW stamps continued in use after the establishment of Queensland on December 15th 1859 until Queensland stamps were issued November 1st 1860. This period is recognised as being NSW stamps being used abroad in a different colony.

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

NSW PRE-STAMP MAIL 1842-50.

Inwards Mail 1844

Between 1840 and 1849 Great Britain had postage stamps but New South Wales did not.

The uniform letter rate to NSW and most of the world outside Europe was 8d with no inland charges.

This letter is from Scotland to Moreton Bay paid by 4 X 2d blue stamps.. It was posted from Scotland to Moreton Bay 10th December 1843. The addressee is W.E.Oliver. He was at Bouraba Sation near Esk with J.T.Borthwick (see 1842-43 volume of Depasturising Licences, Colonial Secretary's Papers).

Possible ships from Great Britain to Sydney:

The "United Kingdom" which left Liverpool Dec. 23rd 1843, or "The Ganges" which left Portsmouth Dec. 29th 1843.

Both arrived Sydney April 29th 1844. The Sydney arrival mark is dated April 30th 1844.

The steamer "Sovereign" left Sydney for Moreton Bay May 6th.

In 1844, the only Post Office in Moreton Bay District was at Brisbane. There are no Brisbane marks. From Brisbane a letter would be taken up the Brisbane River Valley by pack horse.



- Markings:
1. Boxed Scottish Despatch Mark "....WICK / DE 10 / 1843"; probably from Hawick.
 2. Transit mark (red) LONDON DE 12 1843
 3. PAID SHIP LETTER LONDON (red) 12 DE 1843
 4. SHIP LETTER SYDNEY AP 30.

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

Pre-stamp mail 1849 – Toulmin Packet mail.

Between January 1846 and June 1849 there was a contract packet service between NSW and GB operated by Toulmin Bros. This letter from Esk to Scotland sailed on the last Toulmin packet voyage “SS TROPIC” from Sydney. The ship left Sydney 7th June and arrived in Falmouth October 26th. Esk did not have a post office so the letter was taken privately to Ipswich.



Manuscript marks

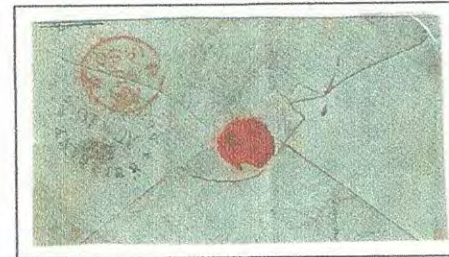
Paid(black); Ship letter paid(red)
 PO Ipswich 4th May 1849 (red on back)
 Prepaid 1/1d: to Sydney 10d, Ship 3d
 In GB: ship letter 8d + delivery 4d =1/-

Postmarks:

Brisbane AU 16 1849
 Sydney(red) May 22nd 1849
 London arrival 26 OC 26 1849
 Carlisle OC26; Langholme OC 27

Pre-stamp mail 1849 – by private ship

Between July 1849 and September 1852 mail from GB to NSW was carried by private ships(this by the “EMIGRANT”) Sometimes they were treated as packet mail, sometimes not. This letter was marked (ms.) “prepaid not by way of India” to save money.



Postmarks

“PAID AT BRISBANE” hand stamp
 “Paid Ship Letter Sydney SE 4”
 London arrival CDS FE 4 1850

Manuscript marks

Prepaid 7d (red).
 4d steamer to Sydney; 3d ship letter 8D B
 8d (Black) delivery to be collected in GB

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859

NSW PRE-STAMP MAIL

Mail for Military Personnel 1846

In the 1840s the Light 99th Regiment was involved in the Maori wars in New Zealand 1845-46. It was then moved to Moreton Bay until June 22nd 1848, when it moved to Tasmania. Chas Blamire was the Adjutant.

This letter is addressed to (Lieutenant) Charles Blamire Esq., New South Wales or elsewhere. On arrival in Sydney it was directed to Moreton Bay. Charles Blamire rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and died in South Africa in 1865.



Postmarks and rates

GB – TP BROMLEY (despatch office)

Rate: "Pd 1/-" Packet Rate + "paid" (ms.)

"PAID" in red JY 30 1846

"PACKET" (ms.) by Packet *Tasmania*

During the Toulman Packet Contract 1844-49.



NSW "SHIP LETTER SYDNEY DE 7 1846"

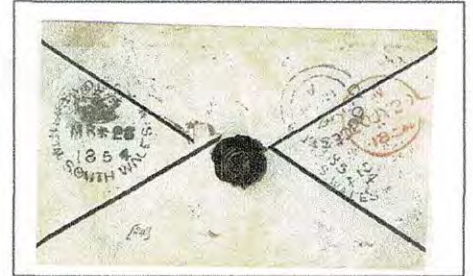
3d Sydney arrival ship rate (ms.)

Sydney to Brisbane December 12th by *SS Sovereign* (119 tons). (Note: *SS Sovereign* was lost in 1857 with 44 lives).
Unidentified ms. In black, possibly 4d intrastate ship rate?

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

Overseas mail 1854 – Unknown ship to GB (Gloucester) with 6d postage paid by 6d Laureate stamp

During 1854 3 different shipping lines were making trial steamer voyages on the GB – NSW route. None of these experimental voyages had dates that match the dates on this letter. 3 ships left Sydney for London in April 1854. All were schooners. The most likely to fit these dates is the *Gladiator*. She departed Sydney April 29th but was the fastest ship. Another possible ship was the *Rodney* dep 22nd. Arrival dates in GB are not confirmed. **Mourning Envelope.**



Rate: 6d single letter to GB

Manuscript : "first ship"

8d GB internal to be paid in GB.

Postmarks:

Brisbane Barred numeral 95 cancel
BRISBANE MR*24/1854 (type C67)
Sydney unframed CDS MR*28/1854 NSW
GB London transit JY 20 /1854 (red)
Gloucester JY 21 1854.

Internal mail 1855 – coastal shipping route to Sydney double rate letter paid by 1d and 3d Laureate stamps.

The dates on this letter use SR for September in place of the more usual SP.



Rate

Letter(1-2 oz rate) 4d paid 1d and 3d laureate stamps.

Manuscript "per Shamrock"

Postmarks

NSW Brisbane Barred No 95 cancels.
Brisbane CDS SR 6 1855 (type C69)
Sydney CDS SR 10 1855 (type S 16a)

Route: Coastal Steamer "Shamrock" to Sydney

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

Overseas mail to India 1856

This letter was sent from Brisbane to Calcutta February 16 1856. During this time the steamers had been withdrawn from the GB to NSW route as troop carriers to the Crimea. The mails to GB were going by clipper round Cape Horn.

The most likely route is by the "SHAMROCK" from Brisbane to Sydney on Feb 20th. Arriving Sydney Feb 23rd. The Shamrock was one of the fastest steamers on the route. The barque "ASA PACKER" left Sydney Feb 30th for Calcutta. The letter was received in Calcutta May 26th.

This part letter refers to a visit to Woogaroo which was a crossing point of the Brisbane River on the way to Ipswich. The addressee is Major Ommanney (Edward Lacon Ommanney who rose to Colonel in the Indian Army).

This is a rare destination from Moreton Bay.

Rate: 6d Uniform Empire rate for ½ oz. (started 30th September 1854)



Postmarks:

Brisbane bar numeral 95 cancel (poor)

Brisbane NSW mark type C67 (under Calcutta Ship Letter)

Sydney NSW transit mark type S15 A/FE*23/1856.

Indian Arrival

CALCUTTA SHIP LETTER 18 05 56

Rarity: one of two letters to India from Moreton Bay recorded by Campbell.

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

Overseas mail 1855 - The CLIPPER sailing ships

Black Ball Clipper (this voyage had no arrival marks)

When the steamers were withdrawn to go to the Crimean war at the end of 1854 the Jaimes Baines & Co. Black Ball line and White Star line clipper ships carried mail between GB and Australia. There was a contract for southbound voyages from Liverpool (5th of each month) to Melbourne with branch service to NSW (contract time to Sydney was 78 days). There was no contract northbound. The captains decided when to sail. Markings on arrival in GB vary. This connecting ship departed Sydney Dec 8th.

This letter refers to Capt. Barney, the Postmaster at Brisbane.



Rate 6d Empire Rate letter

Mark - 5d (red) GB internal-pay in GB.

Postmarks

Brisbane Barred numeral 95 cancel
BRISBANEDE4/1855 (type C67 NSW)
Sydney Ship letter SL6 var 1B DE*8/1855

GB mark: Bedford CDS MR23/1856

White Star line Clipper (with arrival mark). The southbound voyage was a contract voyage, which left Liverpool on the 20th of each month. This northbound voyage to GB was not a contract voyage. The captain of the Clipper determined the date of departure, which depended on the date of arrival from Liverpool. However, this letter was treated on arrival as if it were a contracted packet voyage with the Paid arrival mark. This connecting ship departed Sydney July 23rd.



Rate

Letter (½ - 1 oz rate) or packet rate 1/-

Postmarks

Brisbane Barred Numeral 95 cancel.
Brisbane NSW JY 18 1855 type C69
Sydney NSW JY 23 1855 type SL 6
GB - PAID (red) NO 28 1855
Ilminster NO 30 1855

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

Overseas mail – 1857 – Shipping Co. “RMSPC”

Ipswich to South Pemberton, Somerset

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. (RMSPC) After Sep. 1857 The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. (RMSPC) on behalf of Royal Mail, assumed responsibility for the mails from Sydney to GB after September 1857 because the European & Australian Royal Mail Co was insolvent. This arrangement lasted until the start of 1859. Mails from Moreton Bay were routed through Sydney.

Route: Ipswich to Brisbane by post horse. Brisbane to Sydney by Steamer “Boomerang” Sydney to Suez by “European”. Overland to Alexandria. Alex. to Southampton by “Tamar”



Rate: 6d single letter to GB

Manuscript : “per mail steamer”

Postmarks:

Ipswich Barred numeral 87 cancel

Ipswich CDS type C67 No 11 1857

Sydney Ship Letter type SL9 23 No 1857

GB – Martock CDS Fe 8 1858 (redirected)

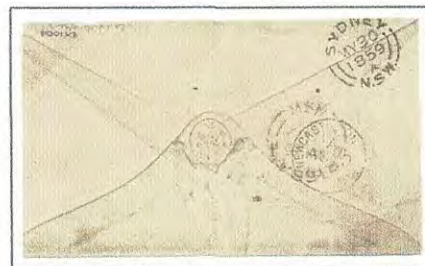
Ilminster CDS Fe 8 1858

South Pemberton CDS Fe 9 1858

Overseas mail 1859 – Shipping Co. “P & O”

Brisbane to Newcastle on Tyne

In 1859 P&O agreed to contract for the Australian route. They were 4 pre-contract voyages. The first contract voyage was the *BENARES* On June 14, which included this letter. **Route:** Brisbane to Sydney by steamer. Sydney to Suez by *BENARES*. Overland to Alexandria. Alexandria to Southampton by *CEYLON*.



Rate

Letter (Uniform Empire rate) 6d.

Manuscript “per 1st Mail”

Postmarks

NSW Brisbane Barred No 95 cancel.

Brisbane CDS MY 26 1859 (type C69)

Sydney CDS MY 29 1859 (type S 17)

GB – Newcastle on Tyne CDS AU 10 58

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

Registered Overseas mail 1857 – single letter rate to London

The European and Australian Royal Mail Co. (E&ARM) was awarded the mail contract GB to NSW at the end of the Crimean War. The E&ARM became insolvent in September 1857. The contract was taken over by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The registration stamp (value 6d) was issued in 1856. The hand stamp *REGISTERED BRISBANE* was issued in 1856.

Route: "YARRA YARRA" steamer Brisbane to Sydney.

"SIMLA" dep Sydney 11 Oct 57; arr. Suez 20 NOV 57.

"TAMAR" dep. Alexandria 27NOV 57; arr. Southampton 9 DEC 57



Rate: 6d postage (½oz) by 6d stamp

Registration stamp 6d

Manuscript marks: « Per mail Steamer»

Registration no. "1097"

"d 6" Registration in GB

"10" delivery GB

Postmarks: Brisbane Ray numeral 95 cancel

REGISTERED BRISBANE (NSW type R15)

Brisbane CDS SP 15 1857 (on back)

Sydney CDS SP 19 1857 (on back)

GB marks: Registered GPO oval DE 9 57

Registered internal mail 1856 – single letter rate to Sydney

Early 1856 use of registration stamp.

Route: Coastal ship to Sydney



Rate: 2d postage (½ oz) by 2d stamp.

Registration stamp 6d.

Manuscript Mark: reg no. 280

Postmarks

NSW Brisbane Barred Numeral 95 cancel.

REGISTERED BRISBANE NSW type R15

Brisbane CDS AP 22 1856 type C67)

Sydney CDS AP 28 1856 – Ship Letter Room

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

Registered Internal Mail – 1859 single letter rate Dalby to Sydney

By 1859 the larger Post Offices had Registered hand stamps. Dalby was too small an office so still marked in manuscript.

This letter was sent by F.H. Tamm, a well known sheep farmer from Oxley Creek. He improved merino breeding stock.

Route: Dalby to Drayton by Post Horse. March 9th Weds. 8.am. arr. Weds 8 p.m.

Drayton to Ipswich by Post Horse . March 10th. Thurs. 4 a.m. arr. Thurs. 8.p.m.

Ipswich to Brisbane by mail coach March 11th Fri. 7.a.m. arr. Brisbane 11 a.m.

"Yarra Yarra" steamer Brisbane to Sydney. Dep March 16th ; arr. March 19th.



Rate : 2d postage (½oz) by 2d stamp

Registration stamp 6d

Manuscript marks : "registered"

"Registration no. 112"

Postmarks: Dalby Ray numeral 133 cancel

Dalby CDS MR 9 1859 (on back)

Brisbane CDS MR 11 1859 (on back)

Sydney CDS MR 19 1859 (on back)



Registered internal mail 1856 – single letter rate Drayton to Ipswich

Use of 6d postage stamp for registration.

Route: Drayton to Ipswich is a direct route. This letter went past Ipswich to Brisbane and back to Ipswich. ?



Manuscript Mark: "registered 50"

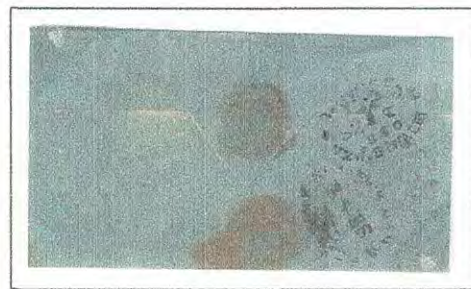
Postmarks

Drayton Barred Numeral 85 cancel.

Drayton oval (type C67 SE ? 1856 (feint)

Brisbane oval (type C67) SE 2 1856 (back)

Ipswich oval (type C67) SE 3 1856

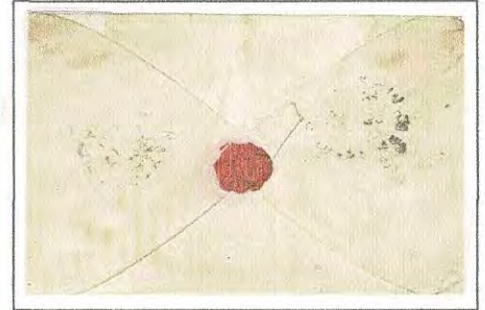


THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

NSW internal mail September 1851 – Drayton to Brisbane – double rate letter.

Drayton was originally called Darling Downs. The Post Office was renamed some time in 1848

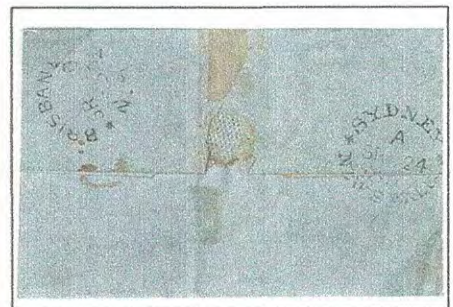
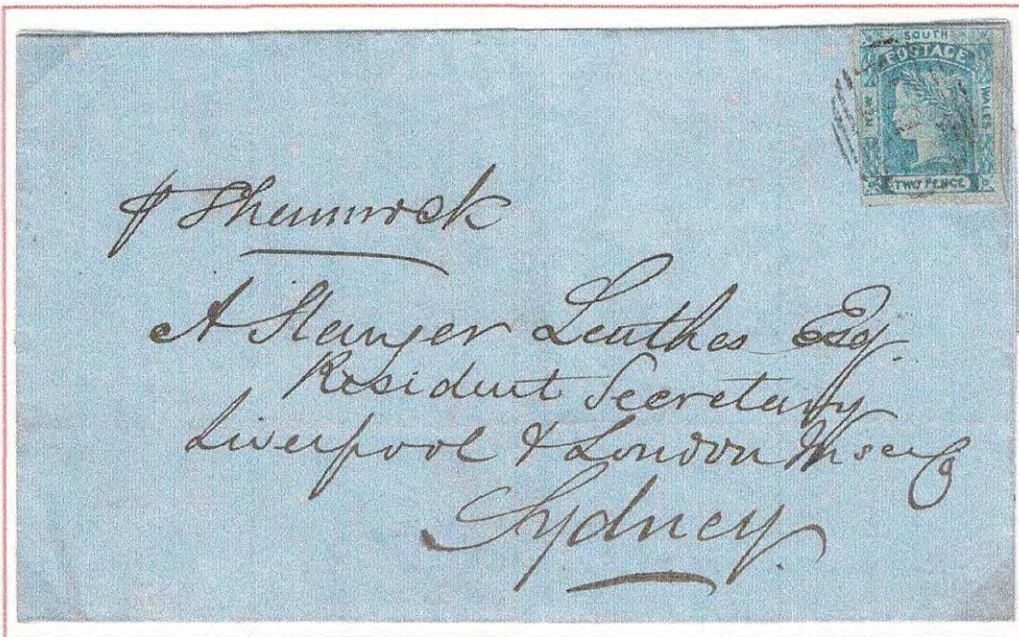
This is commercial mail with financial written calculations written (by addressee?). Large money amount £ 72,000!



Rate: 4d double rate letter ½oz – 1oz.
Paid by 2 X 2d Laureates pl. 1

Postmarks. Drayton Barred numeral 85
Drayton C68 NSW SP 17 1851 (back)
Brisbane C67 NSW SP 18 1851 (back)

Internal mail 1855 – shipping route on the coastal steamer *Shamrock* Brisbane to Sydney single letter rate



Rate
2d letter rate (½oz-1oz) paid by 2d laureate stamp pl. 2

Manuscript "per Shamrock"

Postmarks

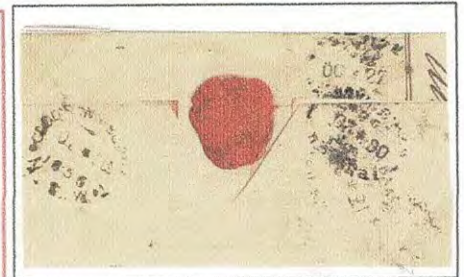
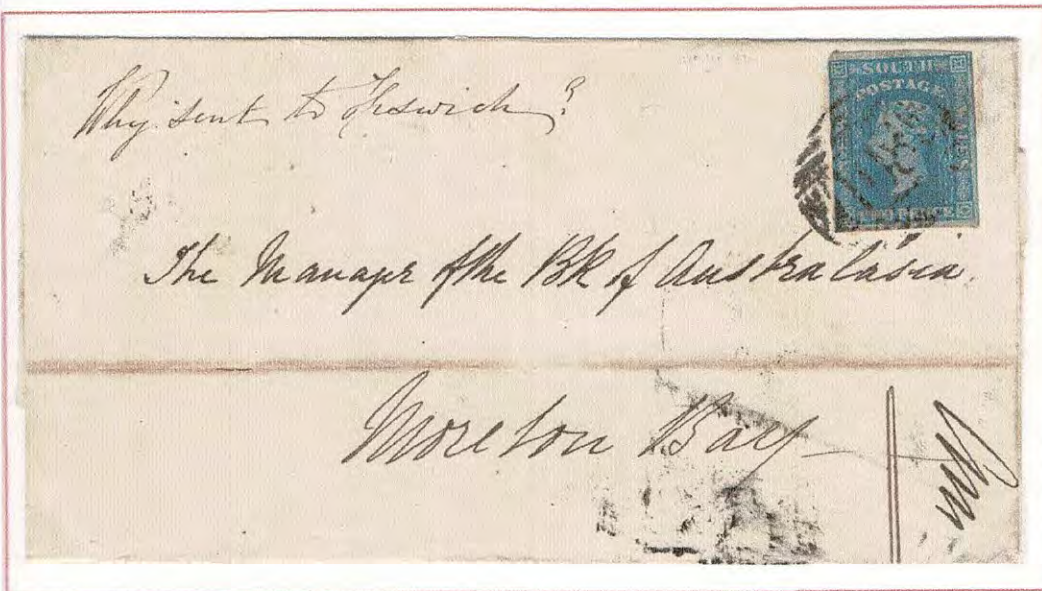
NSW Brisbane Barred No 95 cancel.
Brisbane C69 SR 20 1855 (back)
Sydney S16a SR 10 1855 (back)

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

NSW internal mail October 1856 – Goode's Inn to Ipswich. Redirected Mail.

Letter sent from Goode's Inn to "Bank of Australasia, Moreton Bay". There is a manuscript note "Why sent to Ipswich?". The markings show it was sent to Ipswich, then Brisbane and then back to Ipswich. Goode's Inn postmark was "Goode's Inn Burnett"

Note: manuscript "Why send to Ipswich?". Sender did not define which city.



Rate 2d single letter (½oz)
paid by 2d Diadem pl. 1

Postmarks.

Goode's Inn Barred no 108

Goode's Inn Burnett type C69

Ipswich type oval C67 OC 20 56

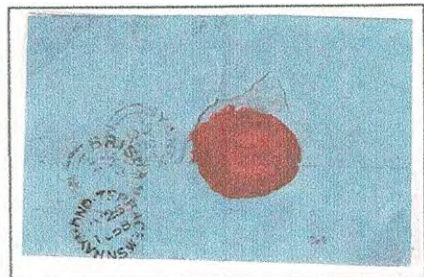
Brisbane type oval C67 OC 21 56

Ipswich type C67 OC 22 56

NSW Internal mail 1858 – Brisbane to Stroud.

Route: On Yarra Yarra to Sydney, then overland to Stroud.

Australian Joint Stock Bank seal on reverse.



Rate:

2d letter rate (½oz) paid by 2d
Diadem stamp pl. 1

Postmarks

NSW Brisbane Ray No 95 cancel.

Brisbane C71 JY 21 1858 (back)

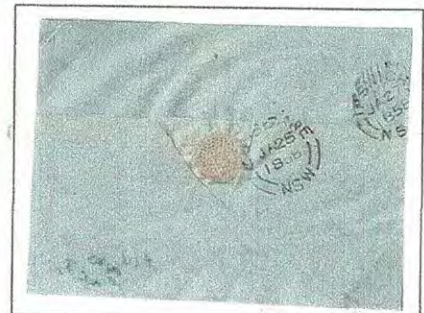
Sydney C71 JY 24 1858 (back)

Raymond Terrace JY 25 1858

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

NSW internal mail Brisbane to/from Ipswich. 1858

In the Moreton Bay district of NSW, Brisbane was the largest town (PO est. 1830). Ipswich was the second town (PO est. 1846).
Ipswich to Brisbane June 8th 1858.

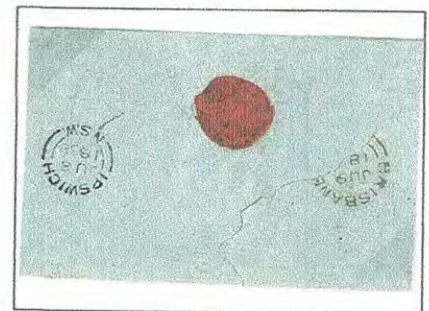


Rate: 2d single rate letter ½oz.
Paid by 2 X 1d Diadem
Postmarks. 87 Ipswich ray cancel
Ipswich CDS JU 8 1858
Brisbane CDS JU 9 1858

NSW Internal mail 1858 – single letter rate

Brisbane to Ipswich January 25th 1858

Addressee: G. Fairclough, Mgr. Bank of Australasia, Ipswich probably received as much mail as anyone in Moreton Bay



Rate
2d letter rate (½oz) paid by 2d diadem stamp
Postmarks
Brisbane 95 ray cancel
Brisbane CDS JA 25 1858
Ipswich CDS JA 27 1858

THE POST AT BRISBANE, NEW SOUTH WALES 1842-1859.

Intercolonial Mail (NSW to Victoria) up to formation of new colony of Queensland (December 1859)

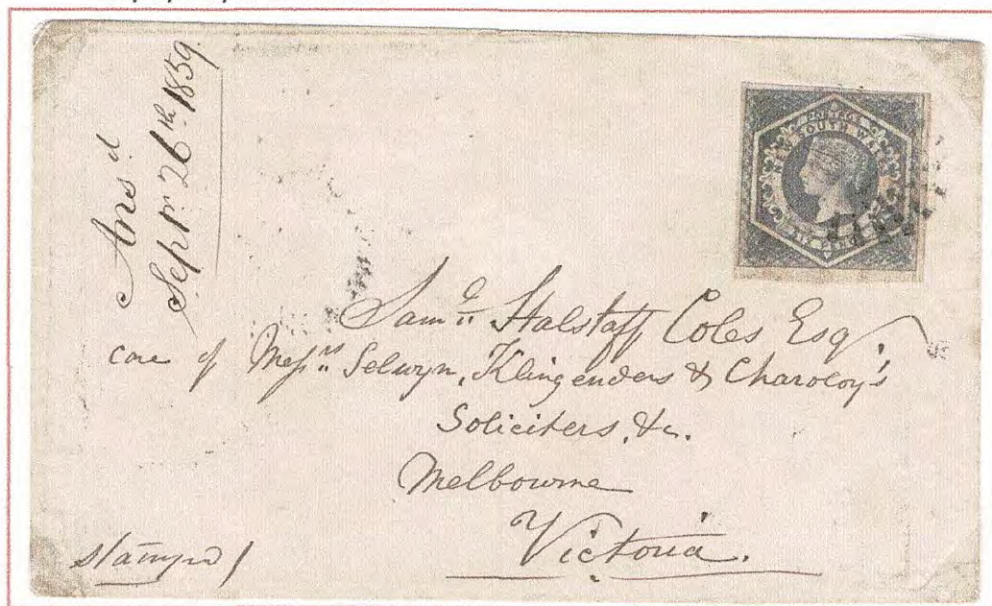
From 1st December 1859 the Government of Queensland took over Postal services and revenues from NSW.

Intercolonial mail 1859 – single letter rate Ipswich to Melbourne August.

Route: Mail coach Ipswich to Brisbane

Ship Brisbane to Sydney

Ship Sydney to Melbourne



Rate : 6d postage (½oz) by 6d stamp

Intercolonial mail

Manuscript marks : "Stamped"

Postmarks: Ipswich Ray numeral 87 cancel

Ipswich CDS AU 8 1859 (on back)

Sydney AU 13 1859 Ship letter room CDS

with C code (S21) (on back)

Melbourne arrival AU 17 59 (RED)

Intercolonial mail 1859 – single letter rate Ipswich to Melbourne November.

Route: Mail coach Ipswich to Brisbane

Ship Brisbane to Sydney

Ship Sydney to Melbourne



Rate: 6d postage (½ oz) by 6d stamp.

Intercolonial mail

Postmarks

Ipswich Barred Numeral 87 cancel.

Ipswich CDS NO 19 1859.

Sydney NO 26 1859 CDS type S22 (first date

stamp after Inland Room and Ship Room

Used combined date stamps.

Melbourne arrival (indistinct) in RED

This letter left Sydney NSW 4 days before Queensland took over postal services in Moreton Bay from NSW