

Philadelphia Maritime Mail: Date Ranges of Pre-GPU Postmarks

These postmarks comprise most of the handstamps used in Philadelphia on pre-GPU maritime mail. They were originally published as part of a larger work Tom Clarke¹, using illustrations made largely by Dick Winter. Numbers and groupings are per Clarke. Earliest and latest dates of use are modified from the dates in Clarke's book, based on data from Tom Clarke, Van Koppersmith, Dwayne Littauer, Norm Shachat, Steve Taylor, Dick Winter and myself. The purpose of this listing is to solicit new earliest or latest uses from PPHS members. Anyone submitting a new date will receive a digital copy of this article.

Postmarks introduced by the Philadelphia Foreign Division during GPU/UPU are not included here; see Clarke's book for illustrations.

Usages of many of these postmarks are illustrated in Winter², as well as in his several exhibit reprints offered by the US Philatelic Classic Society.

Early Ship-Letter Markings, 1793 - 1815

501a
6 mm, Brn
Feb 1793 - ?

501b
12 mm, Brn
Aug 1793 - 1797

501c
8 mm, Brn
3 Aug 1794 - ?

501d
15 mm, Red
22 Aug 1798 - ?

502a
15 mm, Red
May 1799 - ?

502b
14 mm, Red
Mar 1802 - ?

502c
18 mm, Red-brn
Aug 1802 - 6 Jul 1805

502d
15 mm, Red
1 May 1806 - 1 Apr 1834

503
15 mm, Red
12 May 1815 -
18 Dec 1815

504
10 mm, Red
1815

510
15 x 3 mm, Red
1 Sep 1798 -
Mar 1804

511
19 x 5 mm, Red
4 May 1804 -
26 Apr 1817

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1. Clarke, T., 1990: A Catalogue of Philadelphia Postmarks, 18th Century to the Present. Privately published, Philadelphia, 136 p.
 2. Winter, R.F., 2006: Understanding Transatlantic Mail, Volume 1. American Philatelic Society, 482 p.

Inland Waterway Mail: Delaware River Incoming

MAILROUTE

515
39 x 3 mm, Red
Feb 1828 -?

STEAMBOAT.

520
41 x 4 mm
25 Sep 1824 – 26 Oct 1833

STEAMBOAT

not Available

521
36 x 3 mm, Red
1845

STEAM

522
23 x 3 mm, Red
1846? -?

Later Ship Markings, 1819 – 1865



*Used on incoming mail to
destinations beyond the port.*

525
28 x 32 mm, Red
29 May 1834 – 7 Sep 1835

SHIP

531
20 x 5 mm
Red: 19 May 1819 – 12 Aug 1836
Blue: 29 Oct 1836 – 19 May 1852

SHIP

535
1 x 32+ mm, Blue
Oct 1836 – Jun 1841

SHIP

536
21 x 3+ mm
Red: 7 Jul 1843 - ?
Blue: 28 Jun 1841 – 6 Oct 1845

SHIP

537
22 x 4 mm, Blue
3 Sep 1845 – 22 Sep 49

SHIP

538
20 x 4+ mm
Blue: 2 May 1851 – 21 Jun 1853
Black: 30 Jan 1854 – 13 Oct 1857

SHIP

539
21 x 5 mm, Black:
22 Aug 1859 – 24 Mar 1860

SHIP

540
19 x 5 mm, Black:
13 Jun 59 – 19 Jan 1865

SHIP

541
19 x 4+ mm, Black:
13 Jun 1860 – 10 Sep 1861

U. S. SHIP

543a
33 x 5+ mm, Black:
11 Feb 1863 – 29 May 1865

Octagonal Rate Markers

These were domestic handstamps in disuse since 1836, and subsequently put back in service for use on foreign mail. The rim is a double line which is usually seen over inked.



527
27+ x 22+ mm, Red:
12 Dec 1849 – 23 Jan 1850



528a
27+ x 22+ mm, Red:
19 Feb 1850 – 23 Mar 1857



528b
27+ x 22+ mm, Red:
21 May 1850 – 9 Nov 1852



528c
27+ x 22+ mm, Red:
8 Aug 1851 – 14 Jun 1852



528d
27+ x 22+ mm, Red:
4 Feb 1851 – 28 Jul 1852



528e
27+ x 22+ mm, Red:
19 Aug 1850 – 7 Feb 1851



528f
27+ x 22+ mm, Red:
10 Jun 1850 – ?

Manuscript 61
Not Available

528g
27+ x 22+ mm, Red:
Oct 1851 - ?



529
27 x 21 mm, Red:
27 Nov 1849 – 12 Dec 1849



530a
27 x 21 mm, Red:
18 Feb 1850 – 23 Mar 1853



530b
27 x 21 mm, Red:
6 Mar 1851 - ?



530c
27 x 21 mm, Red:
10 Mar 1851 - ?



530d
27 x 21 mm, Red:
18 Mar 1851 - ?



530e
27 x 21 mm, Red:
13 Mar 1852

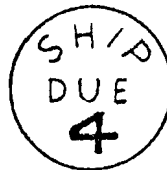
Rating Numerals



545
21 mm, Black:
19 Mar 1864 – 24 Aug 1864



546
24 mm, Black:
25 Apr 1870 – 23 Nov 1870



547
21 mm, Black:
19 Jul 1872 – 13 Apr 1874



548
21 mm, Black:
27 Oct 1874 – ?



549
9 x 13 mm, Black:
3 Aug 1855 – 3 Nov 1855



550
11 x 15 mm, Black



551
8+ x 13+ mm, Black:
29 Jul 1856 – 22 Dec 1856



552
8 x 12 mm, Black:
24 Jun 1853 – 17 Oct 1856



553
5 x 9 mm, Black:
19 Mar 1864 – 17 Jul 1865



554
14 mm, Red:
22 Oct 1824 – 16 Sep 1836



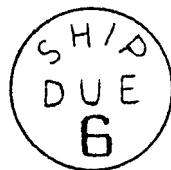
555
27+ x 22+ mm
Red: 1834 – 22 Jan 1850
Blue: 22 Jun 1848 – Dec 1853?
Black: 30 Jan 1854 – 30 Nov 1860



556
22 mm, Black:
21 Jun 1869 – 2 May 1871



557
21 mm, Black:
6 Mar 1871 – 5 May 1871



558
21 mm, Black:
29 Jan 1874 – 26 Oct 1876



559
9 x 10 mm, Blue:
11 Aug 1846 – ?



560
8 x 9 mm, Blue:
19 Aug 1847 – ?



561
19 mm,
Blue: 10 Mar 1848 – 2 Jul 1856
Black: 24 Dec 1853 – 1855



564
15 x 11 mm, Red:
4 Jan 1856



565
11 x 9 mm, Black:
15 Dec 1871 – ?



566
21 mm, Blue:
28 Nov 1845 – 11 Nov 1850

567
21 mm, Black:
29 Aug 1864 – 19 Jul 1865

568
21 mm, Black:
23 Dec 1868 – 24 Aug 1869

569
15 x 11 mm, Red:
16 Mar 1858 – Nov 1859

570
21 mm, Red:
28 Nov 1864 – ?

20
postulated,
not seen

570A
17 x 9+ mm, Black:
1851-52?
new listing

571
30 x 14 mm
Blue: 21 Oct 1844 – 20 Jun 1845
Red: 20? Jul 1844 – 5 Oct 1844

572
15 x 11 mm, Red:
10 Jul 1854 – 20 Mar 1856

573
9 x 8 mm
Black: 28 Aug 1856 – 30 Jun 1859
Red: May 1857

574
12 x 9 mm, Black:
17 Jun 1858 – 21 Jun 1866

575
12 x 10 mm, Black:
30 Aug 1865 – 17 Nov 1867

576
13 x 9+ mm, Black:
7 Aug 1857

577
16 x 11 mm, Red:
19 Sep 1859 - ?

579
26 x 14 mm, Blue:
22 Jun 1849 – 27 Oct 1849

580
34 x 26 mm, Blue:
16 Apr 1849 – 4 Jun 1849

581
23 x 17 mm, Blue:
3 Dec 1849 – 23 Jun 1851

582
15 x 10 mm, Blue:
Blue: 13 Aug 1851 – 30 Sep 1853
Red: 2 Mar 1853 – 19 Aug 1859

582A
15 x 11 mm, Red:
24 Mar 1860

583
15 x 8 mm, Blue:
30 Jul 1848 – 21 Feb 1851

584
21 mm, Black:
15 Jun 1859 – 25 Jun 1860

585
14 x 10 mm
Blue: 3 Jun 1853 – ?
Black: 18 Sep 1855 – 6 Mar 1865

586
15 x 11 mm, Red:
18 Mar 1855 – 25 Oct 1859

587
18 x 11 mm, Black:
11 Jan 1860 – May 1861

588
16 x 8 mm, Blue:
28 Aug 1848 – 18 Sep 1848

589
12 x 10 mm, Black:
13 Oct 1854 – 30 Oct 1854

589A
17 x 9+ mm, Black
9 Feb 1852
new listing

590
12 x 8 mm
Black: 25 Oct 1861 – 1 Jun 1869
Red: 11 Nov 1859 – Sep 1863

591
13 x 9 mm, Black
24 Jan 1856 – 3 Mar 1856

46
not available

591A
11 x 17 mm, Black
12/29/1854
new listing

592
17 x 11 mm, Black
9 Aug 1854 – 7 Nov 1862

593
20 x 18 mm, Red
27 Oct 1857 - ?

594
14 x 10 mm
Black: 4 May 1854 – 25 Sep 1861
Red: 13 Jun 1860 – 16 Jun 1860

Miscellaneous PAIDs

597
21 mm, Red
4 Feb 1859 – 3 Jun 1859

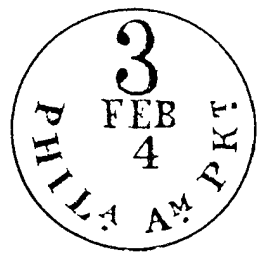
598
20 mm, Red
16 Jan 1874 - 28 Apr 1874

599
24 x 12 mm
Black: 13 Aug 1861 – 8 Jul 1873
Blue: 12 Jan 1869 - ?

American Packet Datestamps



600
33 mm, Black
30 Oct 1854 – 5 Aug 1867



601
32 mm, Red
18 Apr 1854 – 14 Nov 1861



602
32 mm, Red
28 Jul 1858 – 23 Oct 1867



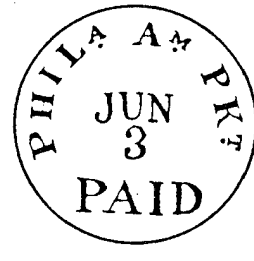
603
32 mm, Black
20 Mar 1857 – ?



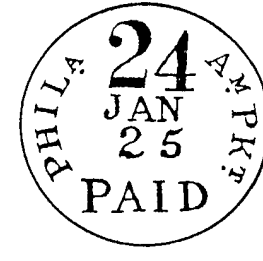
604
32 mm, Black
26 Jan 1854 – 27 Oct 1865



605
32 mm, Black
19 Dec 1862 – ?



606
32 mm
Red: 26 Jan 1854 – 27 Oct 1865
Purple: 8 Nov 1867 – 24 Nov 1867



607
32-33 mm, Red
19 Feb 1854 - 23 Jul 1867

British Packet Datestamps



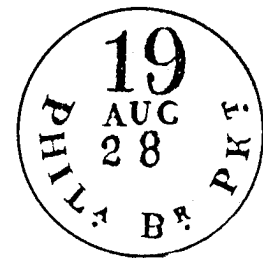
610
32 mm, Black
26 Jan 1854 – 4 Apr 1867



611
32 mm, Black
18 Apr 1854 – 8 May 1865



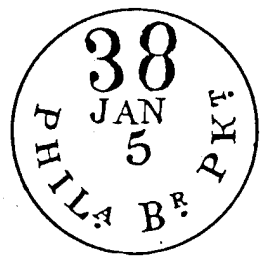
612
32 mm, Black
13 Aug 1861 – 6 Oct 1863



613
32 mm, Red
6 Jun 1854 – 26 Oct 1867



614
32 mm, Black
26 Jan 1854 – 8 Mar 1866



615
32 mm, Red
5 Jan 1858 – ?



616
32 mm
Red: 19 Feb 1854 – 17 Jul 1867
Purple: 20 Nov 1867 – 11 Dec 1867



617
32 mm, Red
19 Feb 1854 – 31 Aug 63

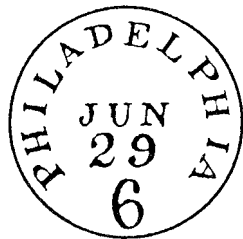
Numeral Datestamps



620

31 mm

Blk: 15 Mar 1859 – 26 Nov 1865
 Purple: 5 Jul 1867 – 6 Dec 1869



621

31 mm

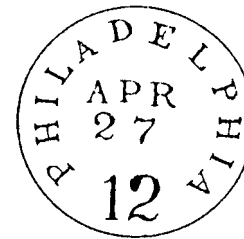
Black: 11 Sep 1860 – 1 Nov 1867
 Purple: 4 Feb 1868 – 9 Nov 1869



622

31 mm, Black

26 Feb 1861 – 4 Dec 1863



623

31 mm, Black

13 May 1859 – 1 Mar 1861



624

32 mm, Black

30 Jun 1860 – Oct 1864



624 var.

32 mm, Black

24 Jan 1857 – Jan 1863



625

31 mm, Black

26 May 1865 – 19 Jun 1867



626

32 mm, Black

24 Feb 1859 – 4 Feb 1865



626

32 mm, Black

24 Feb 1859 – 4 Feb 1865

Numeral Datestamps PAID



630

30 mm, Purple:

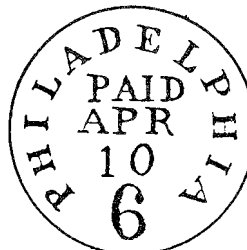
10 Jan 1868 – 25 May 1869



631

31 mm, Red:

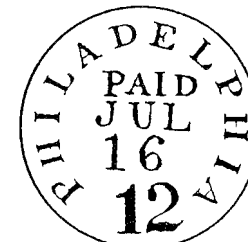
5 Mar 1858 – 25 Oct 1867



632

31 mm

Red: 10 Apr 1857 – 7 Jun 1867
 Purple: 20 Dec 1867 – 28 Dec 1869



633

31 mm

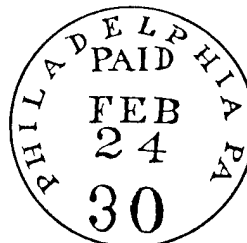
Red: 6 Apr 1857 - 31 May 1867
 Purple: 10 Dec 1867 – 17 Sep 1869



634
32 mm
Red: 25 Oct 1859 – 4 Nov 1867
Purple: 2 Dec 1867 – 16 Mar 1869



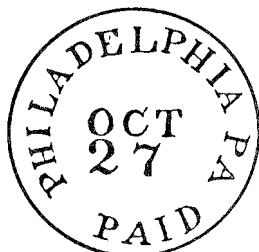
635
32 mm, Red
7 May 1857 – 12 Mar 1866



636
32 mm, Red
17 Feb 1858 – 24 Feb 1859



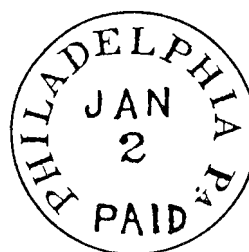
637
32 mm, Red
9 May 1855 – 13 Jun 1860



638
32 mm, Red
27 Oct 1857 - ?



638 var.
32 mm, Red
27 Aug 1857 – 16 Nov 1860



639
32 mm, Red
5 Dec 1853 – 3 Oct 1859

Steamship

“STEAMSHIP”
in circle
not available

STEAM

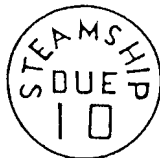
SHIP
10

STEAM
SHIP **20**

644
21 mm, Black
1 Oct 1868 - ?



646
21 mm, Black
4 May 1866 – 15 Dec 1869



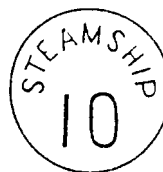
648
21 mm, Black
2 Nov 1871 – 22 Mar 1875

645a
Combined markings, Black
27 Jan 1866 – 23 Feb 1866

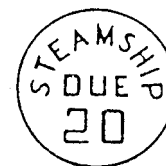


649
21 mm, Black
Black: 10 Aug 1866 – 22 Jan 1869
Blue: 22 Jan 1869

645b
Combined markings, Black
27 Jan 1866 - ?



647
22 mm, Black
19 Jun 1871 – 27 Oct 1871



651
21 mm, Black
16 Feb 1863 – 10 Feb 1875

Small Diameter Datestamps



655

24 mm

Black: 17 Jul 1868 – 21 Feb 1873
Blue: 12 Jan 1868 – 9 Feb 1872



656

26 mm, Black

23 May 1873 – 3 Aug



657

24 mm

Purple: 12 Mar 1868 – 11 Apr 1870
Magenta: 25 Mar 1868 - ?



658

24 mm, Black

20 May 1868 – 21 Feb 1870



659

24 mm

Purple: 10 Feb 1868 – 21 Dec 1870
Red: 24 Nov 1871 – 8 Nov 1872
Magenta: 21 Dec 1869 - ?



660

26 mm

Orange: 19 Jan 1869 – 18 Jul 1875



661

28+ mm

Blue: 12 Nov 1861 – 21 Nov 1861
FAKE?



662

25 mm, Red

18 Jun 1867 – 17 Nov 1867

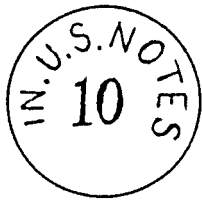


675

27 mm

Orange: 4 Feb 1875 – 28 Nov 1875

IN U.S. NOTES



665
25 mm
Black: Jul 1871 – 10 Apr 1874
Blue: 1 Sep 1872 - ?

IN U.S. NOTES / 13
not available

666
26 mm, Blue
15 Jul 1871 – Apr 1872



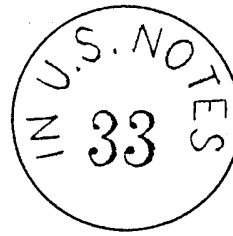
667
24 mm, Black
24 Feb 1868 – 23 Aug 1868



668
25 mm, Black
1 Oct 1867 – 31 Dec 1867

IN U.S. NOTES / 30
not available

668A
30+ mm? Black?
16 May 1870 - ?



669
30+ mm, Black
24 Jul 1867 – 23 Aug 1868

IN U.S. NOTES / 64
not available

670
31 mm, Red
May 1867 - ?