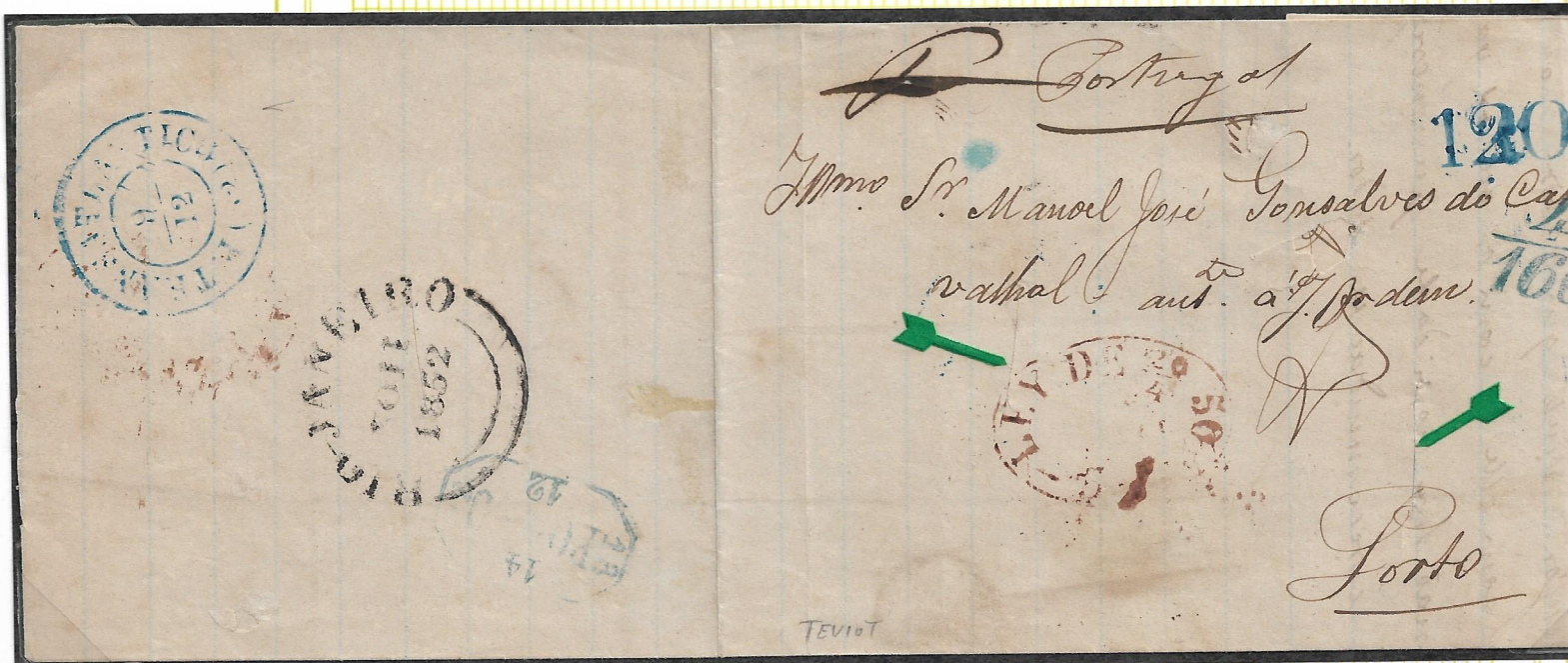


Brazil-Portugal Disinfected Mail

In order to prevent infectious diseases from spreading to other lands by means of letters, various devices to cleanse mails were applied. Steam, acid vapours, heat, vinegar, and fumigation with chemicals, such as sulphur and chlorine, were widely used, with letters often pierced or slashed to facilitate the disinfection procedure.

Outbreaks of cholera in Brazil in the mid 19th Century, principally in Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, affected the handling of mail upon their arrival in Lisboa, Portugal. Letters were offloaded at a quarantine station located in the "Torre de Belem" at the entrance of the Tejo River, where the disinfection procedures were undertaken. The practice of mail disinfection as a preventive measure was discontinued in the late 19th Century when a German doctor, Robert Koch, in 1883, discovered the infectious agent "Vibrio Bacillus" to be waterborne.



Disinfected letter from Rio de Janeiro (10.11.1852) to Porto (14.12.1852) via Lisboa (09.12.1852) transported by "Teviot" of Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. On arrival in Lisboa, letter was charged R\$165:

- R\$120 - maritime rate
- 40 - overland rate (Lisboa-Porto)
- 5 - surtax (5% of R\$100)

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company



Folded letter from Maceio (07.03.1852) to Porto (20.04.1852) via Lisboa (16.04.1852) transported by "Tay", on transatlantic service from 1851 to 1856. Letter was disinfected on arrival in Lisboa and was charged at a reduced rate of R\$40 (maritime rate of 1/8 ounce).

(The "Tay" was the Royal Mail's second vessel put into service in South America)

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company



Folded letter from Bahia (19.05.1853) to Porto (10.06.1853) via Lisboa (07.06.1853) transported by "Teviot I", on transatlantic service from 1851 to 1857. Letter was disinfected on arrival in Lisboa and charged R\$40 (overland rate) and R\$240 (maritime rate up to 2/8 ounce) totaling R\$280.

maritime postal rate

up to 2/16 ounce	-	R\$120
" 3/16 "	-	180
" 4/16 "	-	240
" 5/16 "	-	300

(progressively R\$60 every 1/16 ounce)

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company



Folded letter from Rio de Janeiro (13.08.1853) to Lisboa (10.09.1853) transported by "Great Western". On arrival letter was disinfected and charged R\$240, maritime rate of 2/8 ounce.

(This is "Great Western's" first Brazil/Portugal return voyage. In 1855 she was chartered by the British Admiralty for the Crimean War 1853-1856, and was finally broken up in 1856)

South American & General Steam Navigation Company



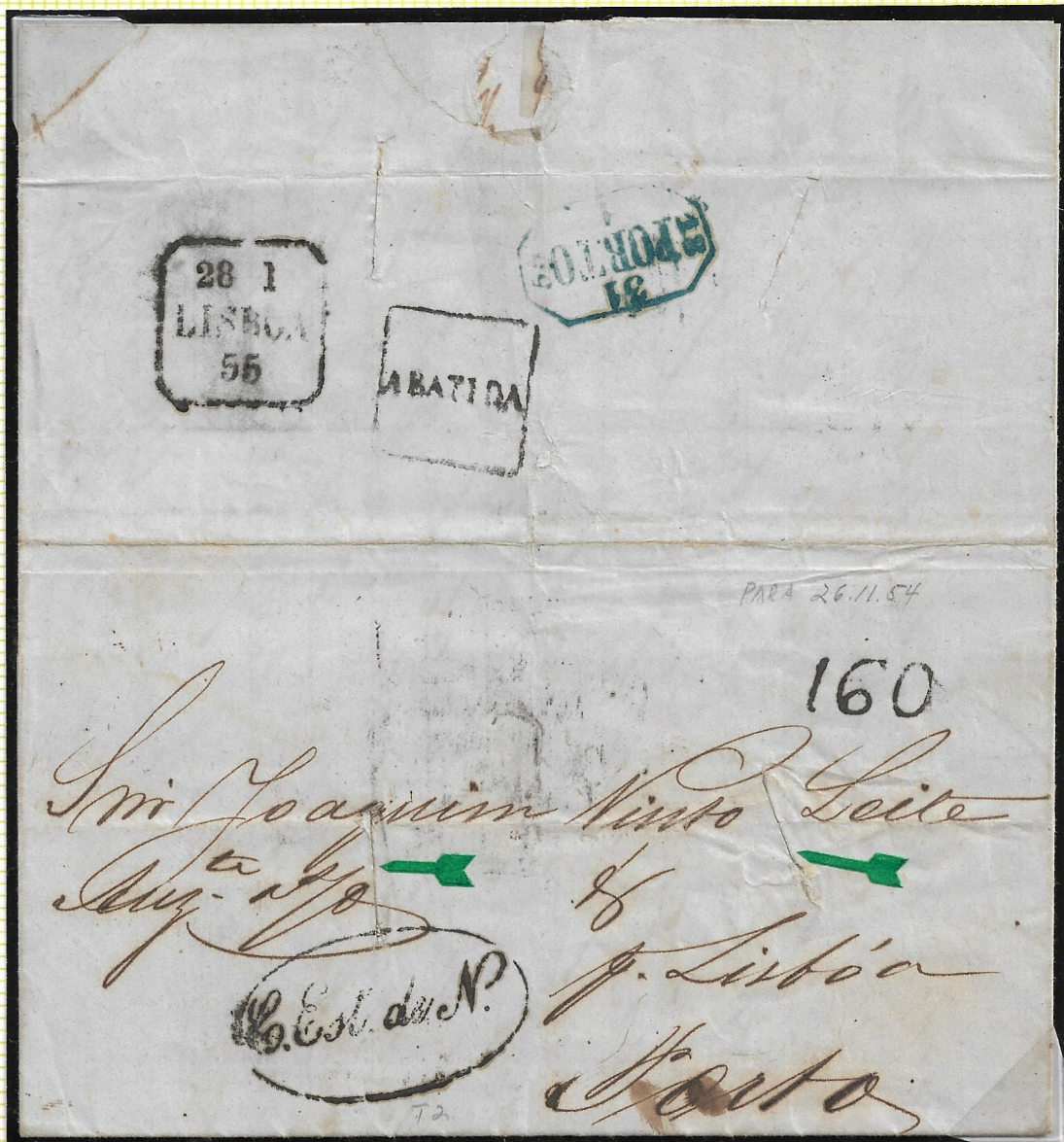
Folded letter from Bahia (04.10.1854) to Porto via Lisboa (26.10.1854) transported by "Lusitania" on her last transatlantic voyage. Letter was disinfected on arrival in Lisboa and charged R\$120, maritime rate of up to 1/8 ounce.

(The South American & General Steam Navigation Company's vessels were in service for only 4 months, completing only 3 round voyages to South America. The vessels were chartered by the British Admiralty as troop transports for the duration of the Crimean War, 1853-1856)

Carta Estrangeira de Navio (Alien Letter by Ship)

C. Est. de N.

ABATIDA



Disinfected letter from Para (26.11.1854) to Porto (31.01.1855) via Lisboa (28.01.1855) transported by Portuguese vessel. On arrival in Lisboa, it was cancelled by "C. Est. de N" and "ABATIDA" mark, the latter in use in Lisboa (1854/55) on letters excluded from the invoice of correspondence to be charged to the addressee.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company



Folded letters from Pernambuco and Bahia (12.05.1855) to Porto (13.06.1855) via Lisboa (10.06.1855) transported by "Great Western", on transatlantic service from 1853 to 1855. Letters were disinfected on arrival in Lisboa and charged R\$120 each, maritime rate of 1/8 ounce.

(In October 1855 "Great Western" was chartered by the British Admiralty as troop transport for the Crimean War, 1853-1856)

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company



Folded letter from Maceio (24.10.1855) to Porto (06.12.1855) via Pernambuco (09.11.1855) and Lisboa (03.12.1855) transported by "Tamar I", on transatlantic service from 1855 to 1859. Letter was disinfected on arrival in Lisboa, charged R\$120 (maritime rate of 1/8 ounce)

("Tamar I" was Royal Mail's last wooden paddler steamer put into service in South America. Prior to this, she had been chartered by the British Admiralty as a troop transport in the Crimean War. This is her first Brazil/Portugal return voyage)

Companhia de Navegação a Vapor Luso-Brasileira



Folded letter from Bahia (23.11.1855) to Porto (20.12.1855) via Lisboa (17.12.1855) transported by "D. Maria II". On arrival in Lisboa, the letter was disinfected and charged R\$320, corresponding to the maritime rate of 4/8 ounce for non-subsidized vessels.

(The "D. Maria II", a 1536-ton iron screw steamer, was built by Green Docks of London in 1854. In all, she made 8 round trips to South America before being sold off in 1857)



09

Carta circulada em 1855 da Bahia para o Porto transportada pelo vapor D.Maria II com carimbo “ Companhia de Paquetes a Vapor Luso-Brasileira-Bahia” batido em verde e porte português do correio marítimo de 320Rs de acordo com o 7o porte para navios não subsidiados.

Compagnie Franco-Américaine (Gauthier Freres & C.)



Folded letter from Bahia (14.04.1856) to Porto (15.05.1856) via Lisboa (10.05.1856) transported by "Cadix". Letter was disinfected on arrival in Lisboa and charged R\$680, non-subsidized maritime rate.

(The "Cadix", formerly named "Cadiz", was acquired from the Spanish Company "Linea de Vapores Correos Espanoles". This is her first South American-Europe return voyage.)

Companhia de Navegação a Vapor Luso-Brasileira



Folded letter from Bahia (09.05.1856) to Porto (07.06.1856) via Lisboa (04.06.1856) transported by "D. Pedro II". On arrival in Lisboa, the letter was disinfectated and charged R\$120, corresponding to the 2nd maritime postal rate for non-subsidized vessels.

(Due to poor management and employing vessels of small size with less horse-power, "Luso-Brasileira" had to foreclose its maritime activities in January 1857, after being in service for only 2 years.)



Carta circulada em 1856 da Bahia para o Porto transportada pelo vapor D.PedroII com carimbo “Companhia de Paquetes a Vapor Luso-Brasileira-Bahia” batido em preto e porte português do correio marítimo de 120Rs de acordo com o 2o porte para navios não subsidiados.

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Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

(disinfected mail)

Bahia
(20.03.1856)
to Porto
(11.04.1856)
via Lisboa
(08.04.1856)
by "Tay"
R\$360 -
maritime rate
of 3/8 ounce.



Bahia
(19.07.1856)
to Porto
(09.08.1856)
via Lisboa
(06.08.1856)
by "Avon"
R\$120 -
maritime rate
of 1/8 ounce.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(disinfected mail)

Bahia
(18.10.1856)
to Porto
(10.11.1856)
via Lisboa
(07.11.1856)
by "Avon I"
R\$120 -
maritime rate
of 1/8 ounce



Bahia
(19.07.1856)
to Porto
(09.08.1856)
via Lisboa
(06.08.1856)
by "Avon I"
R\$300 -
maritime rate
of 5/16 ounce

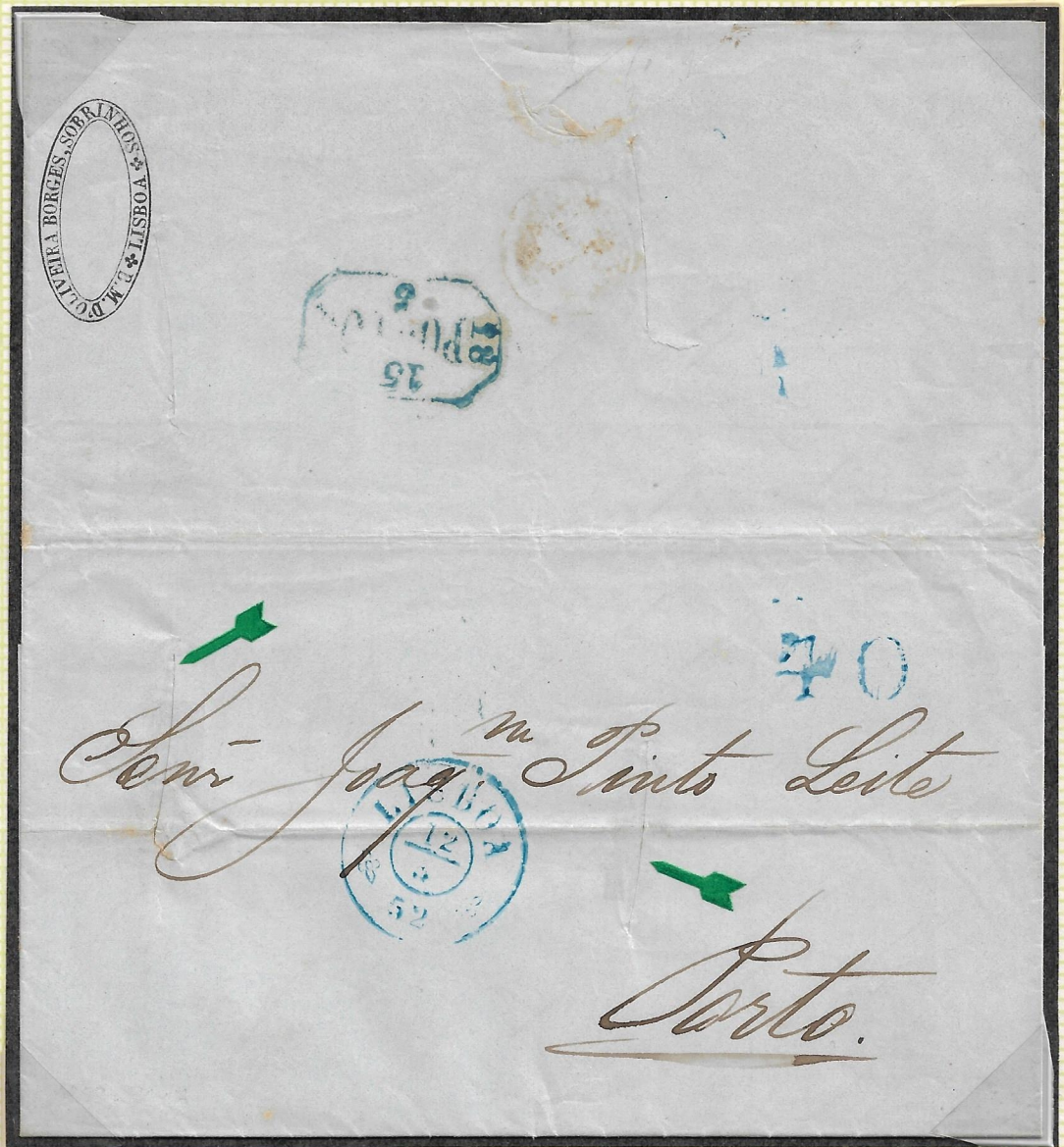
("Avon I" was
a wooden paddler
steamer built in
1842, on trans-
atlantic service
from 1855 to
1860. She was
lost at Colon on
21.11.1862)

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company



Folded letter from Bahia (20.10.1855) to Porto (12.11.1855) via Lisboa (09.11.1855) transported by "Avon I", on transatlantic service from 1855 to 1860. Letter was disinfected on arrival in Lisboa and charged R\$120, maritime rate of up to 1/8 ounce.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company



Folded letter from Bahia (77.03.1852) to Porto (15.05.1852) via Lisboa (12.05.1852) transported by "Severn I", on transatlantic service from 1851 to 1855. Letter was disinfected on arrival in Lisboa and charged at a reduced rate of R\$40 corresponding to the maritime rate of 1/8 ounce.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(disinfected mail)

Bahia
(18.02.1858)
to Porto
(14.03.1858)
via Lisboa
(12.03.1858)
by "Tyne I"
R\$240 -
maritime rate
of 2/8 ounce



Rio de Janeiro
(13.02.1858)
to Lisboa
(12.03.1858)
R\$660 -
maritime rate
of 11/16 ounce

**Páginas
Extras
da
Coleção**

Disinfected Letters (Brazil-Portugal)



Maranhão
(12.06.1858)
to Porto
(23.07.1858)
by merchant
vessel
"Carolina"



Bahia
(11.06.1858)
to Porto
(01.07.1858)
via Lisboa
(28.06.1858)
by "Tamar"
of Royal Mail

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

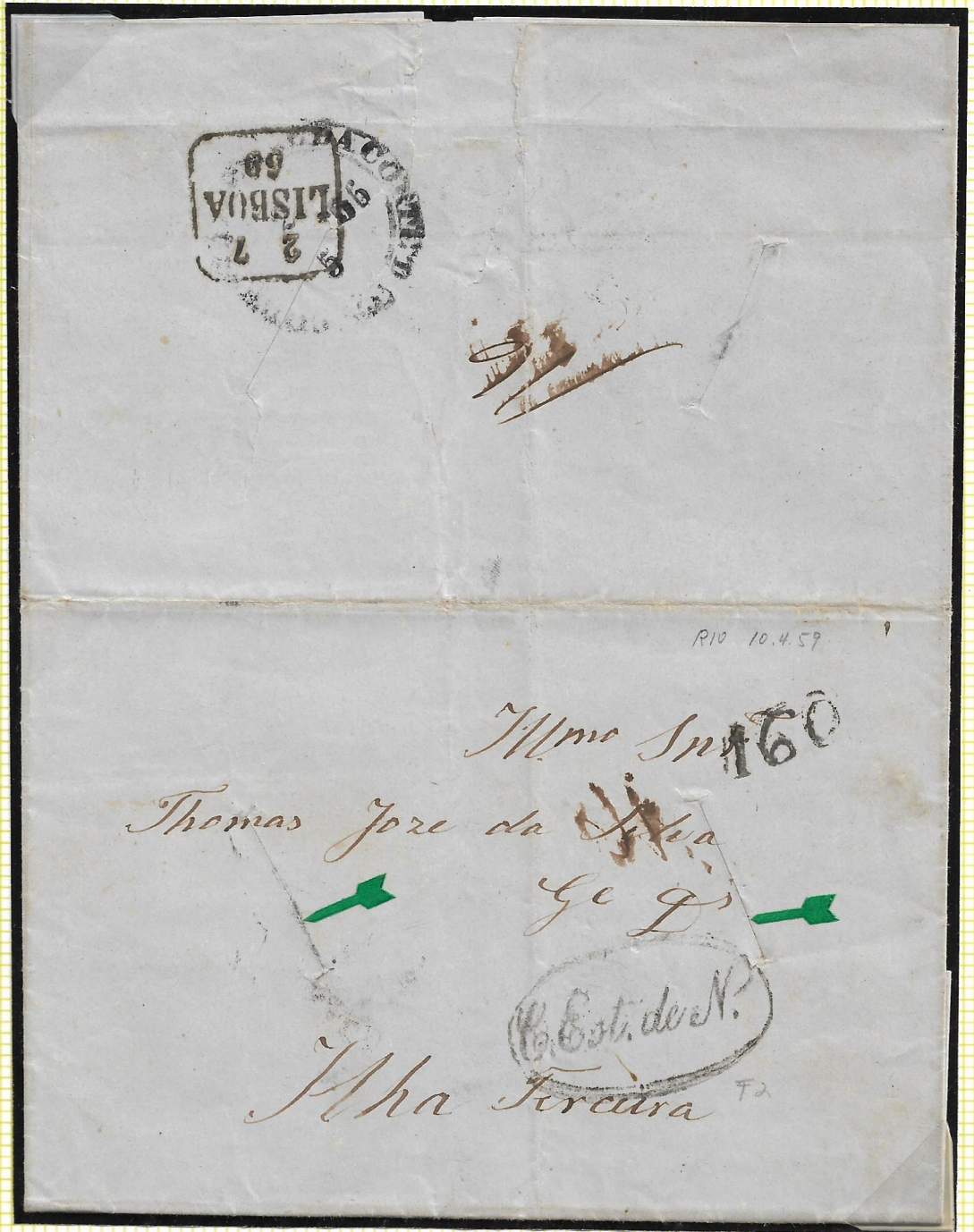
(disinfected mail)

Bahia
(15.03.1859)
To Porto
(03.04.1859)
via Lisboa
(01.04.1859)
by "Tyne I"
R\$300 -
maritime rate
of 5/16 ounce



R\$120 -
maritime rate
of 1/8 ounce
("Tyne I" was
Royal Mail
Company's first
steamer fitted
with iron pad-
dles put into
service in 1854.
She was sold
off in 1875.)

Carta Estrangeira de Navio (Alien Letter by Ship)



Disinfected letter from Rio de Janeiro (10.04.1859) to Ilha Terceira (Açores Islands) via Lisboa (02.07.1859) transported by Portuguese vessel. On arrival in Lisboa it was cancelled by a "C. Est. de N" mark and charged R\$160 (maritime rate). The sea route Lisboa-Açores Isl. was connected by the service of the "Companhia União Mercantil", in operation from 1857 to 1869.