

## Stampless mail to other European countries, 1850s – 1860s



Datelined cover sent in Manila July 30, 1858 to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Sender was Russell, Sturgis and Company as indicated by the red handstamp on the front.

The cover was privately carried to Hong Kong and was given there to the British post office on August 9. It was carried via British ship via Suez. From Alexandria it was carried to Marseille by *Meandre* on September 21 and arrived on September 28. In Marseille an arrival mark "PAYS ETR. V. SUEZ" (foreign countries via Suez) was stuck. Afterwards it was carried by ambulant post office to Paris. On October 3, 1858 it arrived in Amsterdam.

On the front it was marked "200" Dutch cents. In addition to Dutch charges, this fee also includes British and French charges. Also, there is a small "4" at the top left which represents the number of French weight units.

The "5'60" written in red crayon is an accountancy mark between France and Netherlands.

The Netherlands is a scarce destination. This cover is the **only known** stampless cover that was sent to the Netherlands **without** the British postage **being prepaid in Hong Kong**.