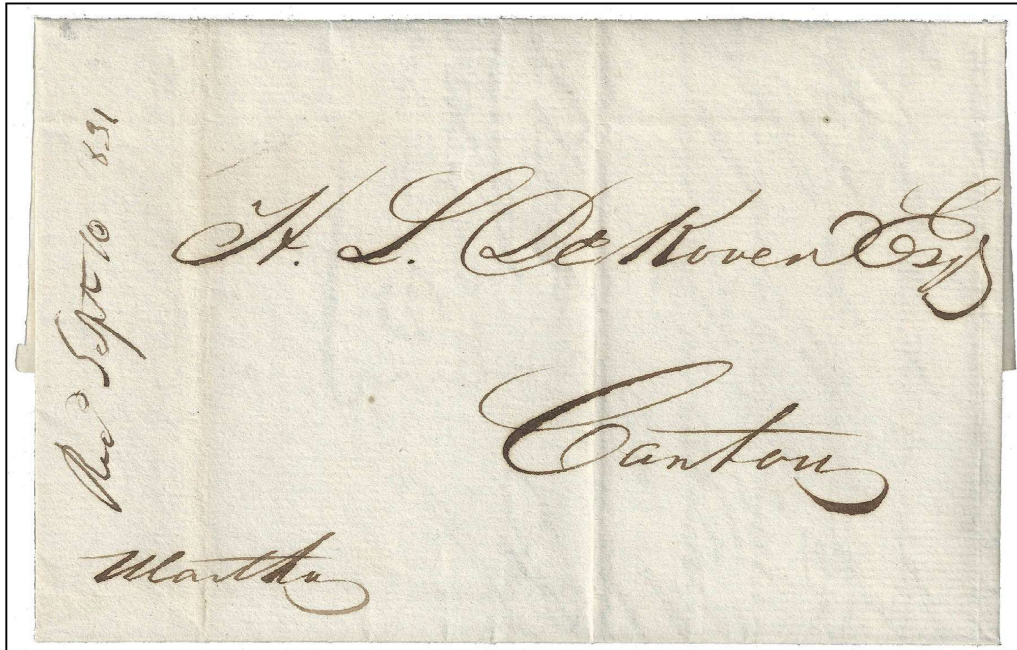


Stampless mail to Far East Ports, 1830s

1831, Manila to Canton, China

In the 1820s and 1830s, Manila mail to Far East ports was almost carried outside of the Manila post office, usually in the care of the captain of the ship, or by a passenger.



Dated Manila August 21, 1831 to Canton, China. It is the earliest recorded letter of the American company Russell, Sturgis and Company sent from the Philippines. Privately carried by the sailing ship *Martha* and without postal markings.

According to a handwritten note by the addressee the cover arrived on September 10, 1831.