



Postal Relations with Belgium

Hugo Deshaye

This unpaid stampless folded letter from Montreal L.C. dated Jan 30 1854 was addressed to Malines, Belgium. It was sent via closed bag on the Cunarder *Niagara* from Boston to Liverpool, then sent through "Angleterre par Ostende" and arrived in Belgium at Station de Malines on Feb 15 1854.

The letter is rated 1/6, then taxed 18 + 2 for a total 20 due. On the face of the cover is a box in black ink, indicating the British debit to Belgium and they read "Débours Étrangers / Taxe Réduite / Port Belge".

1. DÉBOURS ÉTRANGER / Foreign disbursement
2. TAXE RÉDUITE / Rate converted
3. PORT BELGE / Belgian postage

This marking was undoubtedly developed to assist in computing and explaining the amount to be collected, which, because of the differences in the British and Belgian currencies would become complicated. The letter could be sent unpaid or prepaid. It was sent unpaid and rated 1/6 Stg which was converted to 18 decimes. Then, the Belgian domestic single letter rate postage was added for a total of 20 collect. ☒

