

The background of the slide is a faded, sepia-toned image of an old letter. On the left side, there is a prominent red circular postmark. The text within the postmark is partially legible, showing "NEW" at the top, "APR" in the middle, and "1" at the bottom. To the right of the postmark, there is cursive handwriting in dark ink. The words "Bethle" and "Pennsyl" are visible, suggesting the address is Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The overall tone is historical and scholarly.

Mail From the Caribbean Carries an Earliest Known Use

By Charles J. DiComo, PhD

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date cancel. Page 8

Charles J. DiComo, PhD: A cover carried by ship in 1834 from the Caribbean to New York City shows an earliest known use of a circular

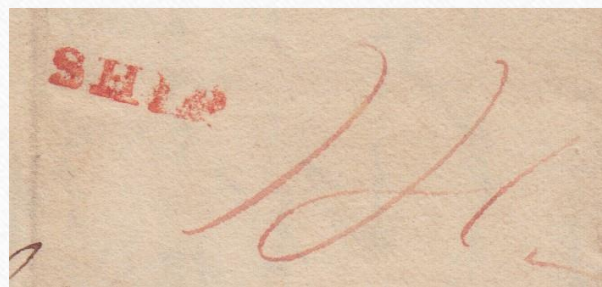


Figure 1. A large sheet – shown here at half size – comprised two pages of correspondence. It was folded and sent on March 19, 1834 from the Caribbean via schooner.

Mail From the Caribbean Carries an Earliest Known Use

By Charles J. DiComo, PhD

of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

This interesting oversized 19th-century cover [Figure 1] originated in the Caribbean and includes an earliest known use cancellation.

The letter penned on paper the size of a modern giftbox – that's 14½ inches by almost 12 inches when fully opened – was written over two pages on March 19, 1834 by Isabella Naylor at Saint Barthelmy Island (St. Barts), the Caribbean, to the Rev. F. Leidl,

Ms. Naylor is responding to some previous correspondence in which she offers thanks for an "esteemed favour," which may include support of "a darling child in a strange country" [Figure 2]. Intentions of a trip to the States is mentioned.

The stampless cover [Figure 3] started its journey to the United States on the same day it was written when it was dispatched aboard the schooner James Hooper. The letter arrived on April 1, about two

SHIP Letter



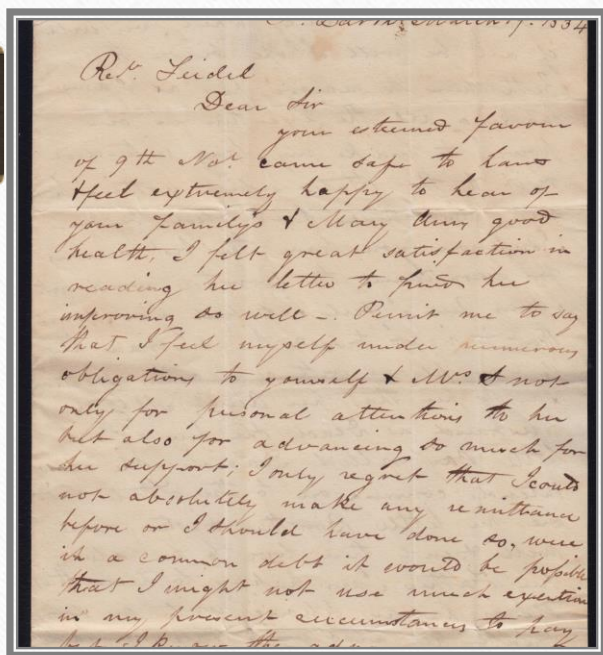
1834-dated Folded Letter addressed to Reverend F. Seidel in Bethlehem, PA that was transported by schooner *James Hooper* from St. Bart's to New York City harbor.

Folded, it is 5½x3 inches.

19th-century Folded Letter originated in the Caribbean and includes an Earliest Known Use (EKU) cancellation.

- The letter penned on paper the size of a modern giftbox – 14½ by 12 inches when fully opened – was written over two pages on March 19, 1834 by Isabella Naylor at Saint Barthelemy Island (St. Bart's), the Caribbean, to the Rev. F. Seidel of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
- Ms. Naylor is responding to some previous correspondence in which she offers thanks for an “esteemed favour,” which may include support of “a darling child in a strange country”. Intentions of a trip to the States is mentioned.
- The letter started its journey to the U.S. on the same day it was written when it was dispatched aboard the schooner *James Hooper*. The letter arrived on April 1, about two weeks later, according to a shipping report published by the New York Commercial Advertiser.
- Upon arrival in New York City Harbor, the ship captain brought any mail he carried, including this letter from Naylor, to the Post Office as his first action.

The letter, written by Isabella Naylor, thanks the Reverend Seidel at the Moravian Seminary for Young Ladies for his help. A sweet note is included about a child from St. Bart's.



Rev. Seidel
Dear Sir
your esteemed favour
of 9th inst. came safe to hand
I feel extremely happy to hear of
your family's & may they good
health. I felt great satisfaction in
reading his letter to find he
improving so well. Permit me to say
that I feel myself under numerous
obligations to yourself & Mr. I not
only for personal attentions to his
but also for advancing so much for
his support. I only regret that I could
not absolutely make any resistance
before or I should have done so, were
in a common debt it would be possible
that I might not use much exertion
in my present circumstances to pay
but I shall be able to do so.



- The postal clerk added a 30-millimeter circular date cancel in red of “**NEW YORK / APL 1**” along with the handstamp “**SHIP**,” indicating an incoming ship letter. The clerk denoted postage due of **14½** cents at upper right, which included **12½** cents inland postage, for the 80 to 150 miles from NYC to Bethlehem, plus a **2¢** incoming ship fee.
- The month use of “**APL**” for April, instead of APR, is an earliest known use of this abbreviation.
- There is handwritten docketing by the recipient at upper left of “[Ms.] Naylor / Apr 4 1834 / and 16 — ”
- The paper is watermarked with a clear “WEBSTER / 1828.”