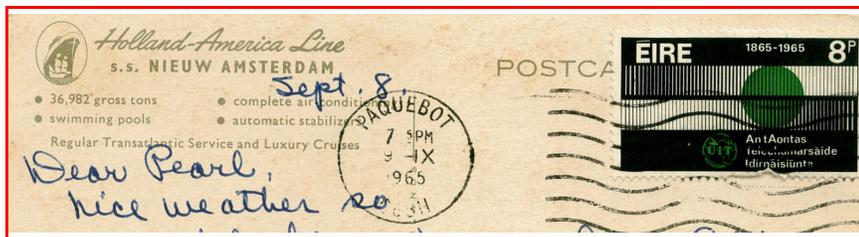


PAQUEBOT

A paquebot is the French term for a ship carrying mail that has been deposited on the high seas for posting in the next port for onward transportation. The French term is used since it is the official language of the Universal Postal Union. A ship is considered an extension of the country of registry, and may use stamps of that country. In addition, the mail posted on the high seas can be franked with stamps from the ship's previous port of call. For a ship registered in Norway going from Spain to Ireland, stamps of Spain, Ireland or Norway could be used. Among the other rules is that the letters must be delivered to the port post office by an officer of the ship, normally the purser or ship's agent. The covers are stamped with a special cancel "Paquebot" which explains why a foreign stamp is used in the country.



Obviously, there can be many different combinations of stamps used. In addition, some ports can be elusive since they are not normally visited by ships carrying mail. For example, major ports such as Cobh, Dublin, and Waterford are easier

Cobh Paquebot cancel.

to find than small or shallow-draft ports such as Dingle or Galway.



Paquebot cover cancelled at Dun Laoghaire

The term "Paquebot" does not apply to military ships. Souvenir covers can be found with the stamps and cancels of the home nation of a warship. While this mail may be transferred from the warship to the Irish Post Office for processing for further distribution, it is done with the ship's canceller, transferred from the ship's postal officer to the shore post office, and is treated as if it were a shipment from the home country Post Office to the Irish Post Office, even though the mail may be turned around and immediately shipped back to the home country.

For further information, see articles published in [The Revealer](#). A searchable CD-rom is available with the first 50 years of articles. For more information, join the EPA and receive [The Revealer](#) quarterly.