

2020 Literature Exhibition of Philatelic Articles Submission Summary

Article Title: An 1845 “Ship Letter” from Port-au-Prince, Hispaniola to New York City on the Brig Hayti.

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Brief Synopsis: This article reviews Ship Letters, those letters from foreign or domestic ports which traveled over water routes by ships or other vessels having no mail contracts. I chose a specific 1845 stampless folded letter from Port-au-Prince to New York harbor to illustrate the point, and also review the rates, the probable routes (via maps), the contents (via translation of the letter), and the New England merchant and sailing Trefly family. I also discuss how I determined the vessel the letter sailed on by detective work and utilizing an invaluable database of original manifests, newly accessible online via the National Archives, called “*Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1820-1897*”