

*Convention for the further Amelioration of the Postal Intercourse between the United States of America and the Swiss Confederation, by means of International Money-Orders issued by their respective Postal Administrations.* October 12, 1867.  
Ante, p. 1031.  
Post, p. 1061.

THE post department of the United States of America, by its special commissioner, John A. Kasson, esquire, and the federal council of the Swiss Confederation, by Dr. Jacques Dubs, vice-president of the federal council and chief of the federal post department, and Jacques-Jean Challet-Venel, member of the federal council and chief of the federal department of treasury, have agreed upon the following articles, subject to ratification by the respective authorities of the two countries:—

Contracting parties.

ARTICLE I. Any person resident in either country, and desiring to transmit small sums of money to any resident in the other country, may effect the same by means of international postal money-orders in the manner hereinafter set forth.

International postal money-orders.

ARTICLE II. There shall be designated in each country at least one office as the international money-order office. This office shall be, (a) on the part of the United States, New York; (b) on the part of the Swiss Confederation, Bâle. If it shall be found necessary, additional international offices may be established by common agreement for the same object.

Money-order offices.

ARTICLE III. Any person desiring to make such international remittance of money may purchase at any money-order office of the country of his residence a postal order for the requisite amount, not exceeding fifty dollars (gold value) in the United States, or its equivalent in Switzerland. This order shall be drawn on the international office of the same country. It shall contain the name and address of the beneficiary in the country of destination, and shall be in the form to be prescribed by the post department of the country of origin. The postmaster issuing the order shall immediately transmit the original to the postmaster of the international office on which it is drawn.

Money-order not to exceed fifty dollars in gold.

Form of order, on which office drawn, &c.

ARTICLE IV. At stated periods, and according to a form to be agreed upon between the two post departments in their common regulations for the execution of this convention, the postmaster of each international money-order office shall transmit to the corresponding international office a duly certified list of such international orders received by him since the last previous transmission, to be paid in the other country.

List of orders to be transmitted.

Immediately upon the receipt thereof the postmaster of the international receiving office shall transmit, according to the usage of the receiving administration, a domestic money-order for the amount due to the beneficiary.

ARTICLE V. In order to simplify accounts and to conform the exchange of international money-orders to the usage of each administration, and to the convenience of the people of each country, it is further agreed that the charges for such exchange of orders shall be composed of:—

Charges for exchange of orders.

1. The domestic charge of the despatching office, which shall not exceed its usual charge upon domestic money-orders of the same amount.

2. The charge for international exchange, which shall be also fixed by the despatching administration, subject to a minimum of twenty cents in the United States and of one franc in Switzerland, and to a maximum of one per cent. where such rate exceeds the minimum.

3. The domestic charge of the receiving country, upon the order by means of which the sum is paid to the beneficiary, which shall not exceed its usual charge upon domestic money-orders of the same amount.

**What charges to be prepaid.** The first two charges shall always be prepaid in the country of origin, either at the time of the purchase of the order or by deduction at the international despatching office, as the despatching administration may by regulation prescribe.

The third charge shall always be collected in the country of destination, by deduction at the international receiving office, or in such other mode as the receiving administration shall prescribe.

The despatching administration shall retain the first and second charges, and the receiving administration shall retain the third charge.

Each administration reserves the right to establish a rate for the international charge mentioned in the second clause of this article, in excess of the maximum there fixed, whenever the cost of international exchange shall temporarily render it necessary.

Each administration shall communicate to the other its tariff of charges which shall be established under this convention.

**Balances to be paid semi-annually.**

**ARTICLE VI.** The debtor administration shall also, at its own cost, immediately after the verification of the semiannual accounts, pay to the credit of the creditor administration, in London or in Paris, the balance found due on the exchanges of the last preceding half-year, without any deduction.

All correspondence exchanged between the respective administrations in the execution of this convention shall be at the charge of the despatching office.

If, pending the settlement of an account, it shall be ascertained that the balance due from one administration to the other shall exceed the sum of two thousand dollars, the debtor administration shall promptly place a proximate amount to the credit of the other.

**Gold basis.**

**ARTICLE VII.** The provisions of this convention relating to money are established on the basis of gold. If, for the internal convenience of either country, any other currency shall be paid to the beneficiary of the money-order, it is, in all cases, to be made as nearly as practicable the equivalent of gold according to the relative values existing at the time. If the sender is allowed to pay for his order in any other currency than gold, the amount certified by the international office is, in all cases, to be the equivalent in gold. The equivalents are to be ascertained under regulations of the department employing such currency. The limitation of the charges in Article V. expressed is also based upon gold value, and if other currency is accepted, the limitation is extended to reach its equivalent in such other currency.

**Sums not paid to be returned to sender.**

**ARTICLE VIII.** Any sums certified as in Article IV. provided, which, after a reasonable delay, cannot for any cause be paid to the beneficiary, shall be re-certified to the despatching administration, for the benefit of the sender, to be repaid in the manner conformable to the interior regulations of the country of origin. But the administration re-certifying the same reserves the right to first deduct its domestic charge of the same amount as if the remittance had been actually paid to the beneficiary.

**Deduction.**

**Denominations of money.**

**ARTICLE IX.** Each international office shall certify its orders to the other, in amounts designated in the denominations of the money of the despatching country. These denominations shall be converted at the international receiving office at the rate which shall be fixed by common accord of the two administrations.

**Regulations.**

**ARTICLE X.** The two post departments shall by common accord establish the detailed regulations for carrying this convention into execution, and may modify them from time to time as the exigencies of the service may require.

**When this convention takes effect.**

**ARTICLE XI.** This convention shall take effect at a time to be fixed by common accord of the two administrations. It shall then continue in force until terminated by mutual agreement, or otherwise, until one year

from notice given by one department to the other of its desire to terminate it.

Executed in duplicate at Berne, this 12th day of October, A. D. 1867.

[SEAL.]

DR. J. DUBS.

[SEAL.]

JOHN A. KASSON,  
*Special Commissioner, &c.*

[SEAL.]

J. CHALLET-VENEL.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }  
*Washington, D. C.*

Having examined and considered the foregoing articles of a convention for the further amelioration of the postal intercourse between the United States of America and the Swiss Confederation, by means of international money-orders issued by their respective postal administrations, which articles were agreed upon and executed in duplicate, at Berne, on the twelfth day of October, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, by the Honorable John A. Kasson, special commissioner, &c., &c., on behalf of this department, and by Dr. Jacques Dubs, vice-president of the federal council and chief of the federal post department, and Jaques-Jean Challet-Venel, member of the federal council and chief of the federal department of the treasury, on behalf of the federal council of the Swiss Confederation, the same are by me hereby ratified and approved, by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States.

Approved by  
Postmaster-  
General;

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the Post-Office Department to be hereto affixed with my signature, this second day of July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

[SEAL OF POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT]

JNO. A. J. CRESWELL,  
*Postmaster-General.*

I hereby approve the foregoing convention, and in testimony thereof I have caused the seal of the United States to be hereto affixed.

by the Pres-  
dent.

[SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES.]

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:

J. C. BANCROFT DAVIS,  
*Acting Secretary of State.*

WASHINGTON, July 2, 1869.

