

Postal Convention between the United States and Bremen.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES

Agreed upon between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of the Hanseatic Republic of Bremen, modifying the Arrangement entered into by said Post Departments in 1847 for the reciprocal Receipt and Delivery of Mails to be conveyed by the United States and Bremen Lines of Steamers, direct, between New York and Bremenhaven. August 4, 1853.

ARTICLE I. The post-office of New York shall be the United States office of exchange, and Bremen the office of exchange of that Republic, for all mails transmitted under this arrangement. Offices of exchange.

ARTICLE II. The international correspondence, conveyed either by United States or by Bremen steamers, as hereinafter stated, between the United States or its Territories, and Bremen, will be subject to the following postage charges, viz.:— Rates of postage.

Postage on each letter or packet not exceeding half an ounce in weight 10 cents
Above half an ounce, and not over one ounce 20 “
Above one ounce, but not exceeding two ounces 40 “

And the postage will increase in this scale of progression, to wit: Additional 20 cents for each additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce. Rate of increase.

Payment in advance shall be optional in either country. It shall not, however, be permitted to pay less than the whole rate; and no account shall be taken of the prepayment of any fraction of that rate. Prepayment optional.

ARTICLE III. All the states belonging to the German Austrial Postal Union, respectively, are to have the advantage of the rate of ten cents, established by the preceding article, (second,) whenever their postage to and from Bremen, for letters to and from the United States, shall be reduced to the uniform rate of five cents, or less. On all correspondence for or from such of said states as shall not so reduce their rates, the charge between the United States and Bremen, by either of the two lines, will be fifteen cents the single rate. Certain other states to have their advantage, upon, &c.

And optional prepayment, a regular progressive scale, &c. upon the same principles as in Article II. shall be admitted and observed.

ARTICLE IV. On all letters originating and posted in other countries beyond the United States, and mailed to, and deliverable in Bremen, or originating and posted in countries beyond Bremen, and mailed to, and deliverable in, the United States, or its Territories, the foreign postage (other than that of Bremen, and other than that of the United States) is to be added to the postage stated in Article II. or III. as the case may be. And the two Post-Office Departments are mutually to furnish each other with lists stating the foreign countries, or places in foreign countries, to which the foreign postage, and the amount thereof, must be absolutely prepaid, or must be left unpaid. And until such lists are duly furnished, neither country is to mail to the other any letter from foreign countries beyond it, or for foreign countries beyond the country to which the mail is sent. Certain foreign postage to be added.

ARTICLE V. Newspapers not weighing more than three ounces each may be sent by the United States and Bremen steamers when the whole postage of two cents is prepaid thereon at the mailing office. The post- Lists of countries to be furnished.
Newspapers, pamphlets, and magazines.

age on pamphlets and magazines, per ounce, or fraction of an ounce, shall be one cent, prepayment of which shall likewise be required in both countries. Said newspapers, pamphlets, and magazines are to be subject to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively, in regard to their liability to be rated with letter postage when containing written matter, or for any other cause specified in said laws and regulations. They must be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends.

Accounts.

ARTICLE VI. The postage for which the United States and Bremen Post-Offices shall reciprocally account to each other upon letters which shall be exchanged between them, shall be established, letter by letter, according to the scales of progression determined by the preceding second and third articles, as follows, viz. : —

The Bremen office shall pay to the United States office for each unpaid letter, weighing half an ounce, or less, originating in the United States and destined for Bremen, as well as for each letter of like weight prepaid in Bremen and destined for the United States, when conveyed, under Article II., by United States steamer	9 cents
and when by Bremen steamer	5 “
When conveyed, under Article III., by United States steamer	14 “
and when by Bremen steamer	5 “

The United States office shall pay to the Bremen office for each unpaid letter, weighing half an ounce, or less, originating in Bremen and destined for the United States, as well as for each letter of like weight prepaid in the United States and destined for Bremen, when conveyed, under Article II., by United States steamer	1 cent
and when by Bremen steamer	5 cents
When conveyed, under Article III., by United States steamer	1 cent
and when by Bremen steamer	10 cents

Respecting the postage for newspapers, pamphlets, and magazines received in either country, the whole is to be paid to the United States office when the same are sent by United States steamers, and one half to the United States and the other half to the Bremen office when sent by Bremen steamers.

It is understood and agreed that, of the portion of the postage for which the United States office is to account to Bremen, as well as of what Bremen may collect, all but one cent a single letter is to go to the benefit of the proprietors of the Bremen line of steamers.

Letter bills and acknowledgments, as well as forms of account, shall be made to conform to these articles.

Quarterly accounts.

ARTICLE VII. The accounts between the two departments shall be closed at the expiration of each quarter of the calendar year, by quarterly statements and accounts prepared by the General Post-Office in Washington; and, having been examined, compared, and settled by the Post-Office of Bremen, the balance shall be paid, without delay, by that department which shall be found indebted to the other. If the balance is in favor of Bremen, it shall be paid over by the United States at Bremen; and if in favor of the United States, it shall be paid over by Bremen at Washington, or to the General Post-Office at London, to the credit of the United States, as the Postmaster-General of the United States shall direct. Neither office is to charge to the other any commissions upon any postage it may collect. The 20 per cent commission to the postmaster of Bremen, stipulated in Article VI. of the arrangement of 1847 is to cease from and after the date when these articles take effect; and Bremen is to receive no other compensation for the services required by the arrangement of 1847 than as provided in Article VI. of the present convention.

Payment of balances.

Certain matter to be free.

ARTICLE VIII. The steamers of the two lines shall be required to convey all dead and returned letters, and the official communications of the respective post departments of the United States and Bremen, free of charge.

ARTICLE IX. This arrangement, which supersedes the temporary arrangement of 6th July, 1853, is to go into effect on the 15th of August, 1853, and it is to be continued in force until annulled by mutual consent, or by either post department after the expiration of three months' previous notice to the other; and it may also cease whenever the Bremen steamers cease running.

These articles when to take effect, and how long to continue in force.

In witness whereof, we have hereto set our names and affixed the seals of our respective offices, this 4th day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, at the city of Washington.

JAMES CAMPBELL,

Postmaster-General.

RUDOLPH SCHLEIDEN,

Minister Resident of the Republic of Bremen.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES

Agreed upon between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of the Hanseatic Republic of Bremen, providing for the Registration of valuable Letters, to be conveyed by the United States and Bremen Lines of Steamers, direct, between New York and Bremenhaven.

May 17, 1855.

ARTICLE I. Letters, alleged to be valuable, posted at any post-office in the United States, and addressed to any part of the German Austrian Postal Union, or posted in the German Austrian Postal Union, and addressed to the United States, and deliverable at the respective exchange offices of New York or Bremen, to be thence conveyed by the United States and Bremen lines of steamers, shall, from and after the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, be registered at the office of mailing, on the application of the person posting the same: *Provided*, That the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of five cents on each letter, be prepaid at such mailing office: *And provided, also*, That such registration shall not be compulsory, and shall not render the respective Post-Office Departments of the United States or Bremen, or their revenues, liable for the loss of such letters or packets, or the contents thereof.

Valuable letters to be registered.

Postage and registration fee to be prepaid. Registration not compulsory.

ARTICLE II. All such letters or packets mailed in the interior of the United States, or of the German Austrian Postal Union, respectively, shall be received, registered, and receipted for, as directed in the general regulations issued in each country in regard to the registration of valuable letters, and shall be sent to the exchange offices of New York or Bremen, respectively, for the purpose of being forwarded thence by the next direct steamer.

Letters, &c. mailed in the interior.

ARTICLE III. The respective exchange offices of New York and Bremen shall make a separate letter bill for each registered letter, or parcel of registered letters, originally mailed at said exchange offices, or sent to them to be forwarded, as prescribed by the regulations referred to in Article II., and shall enter therein the name of the person addressed, the post-office to which it is to be mailed for delivery, and the rate of postage for each letter. The postmaster of said exchange office will then mail each such letter, or parcel of letters, in a separate package from the unregistered letters, and seal each package, after tying it in the usual manner. The letter bills of such registered letters shall not be enclosed in the packages containing them, but shall be enclosed in a separate wrapper or envelope, sealed, and addressed to the postmaster of the corresponding exchange office of Bremen or New York.

Letter bills for registered letters.