

June 12 and 30,
1857.

Postal Convention between the United States and Hamburg.

Preamble.

THE undersigned, being duly authorized for that purpose, have agreed upon the following articles, providing for the reciprocal exchange of mails between the United States and the Hanseatic Republic of Hamburg, to wit:—

Offices of exchange to be New York and Hamburg.
Rates of postage.

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

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

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 twenty cents for each additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce.

Prepayment of postage optional.

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.

Belonging to states of the German Postal Union, to have the advantage of that rate; when, &c.

ARTICLE III. All the states belonging to the German Austrian 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 Hamburg, 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 Hamburg, by either of the two lines, will be fifteen cents the single rate.

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

Foreign postage to be added to certain letters.

ARTICLE IV. On all letters originating and posted in other countries beyond the United States, and mailed to, and deliverable in, Hamburg, or originating and posted in countries beyond Hamburg, and mailed to, and deliverable in, the United States or its Territories, the foreign postage, (other than that of Hamburg, 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.

Lists of foreign countries to be furnished.

Correspondence for or from countries beyond Hamburg not to be exchanged under, &c. unless, &c.

It is further understood and agreed that no correspondence for or from countries beyond Hamburg shall be exchanged under this arrangement, unless the rates of postage to and from such countries, via Hamburg, are identically the same as the rates charged via Bremen, under the United States and Bremen postal arrangement.

Newspapers.

ARTICLE V. Newspapers, not weighing more than three ounces each, mailed in the United States and destined to Hamburg, or mailed in Ham-

burg and destined for the United States, may be sent by the United States and Hamburg steamers, when the whole postage of two cents is prepaid thereon at the mailing office; and newspapers of like weight, done up singly, may be sent to any part of the German Postal Union, via Hamburg, on prepayment of three cents each at the office of mailing in the United States, which shall be in full of the postage to destination; the German postage beyond Hamburg to be one cent each in addition to the two cents chargeable to Hamburg. The postage on pamphlets and magazines per ounce, or a 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.

Rate of postage, and to be prepaid.

Pamphlets and magazines.

ARTICLE VI. The postage for which the United States and Hamburg 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. :—

Accounts.

The Hamburg 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 Hamburg, as well as for each letter of like weight prepaid in Hamburg and destined for the United States, when conveyed, under Article II., by United States steamer	9 cents.
And when by Hamburg steamer	5 “
When conveyed, under Article III., by United States steamer,	14 “
And when by Hamburg steamer,	5 “
The United States office shall pay to the Hamburg office, for each unpaid letter weighing half an ounce, or less, originating in Hamburg and destined for the United States, as well as for each letter of like weight prepaid in the United States and destined for Hamburg, when conveyed under Article II., by United States steamer	1 cent.
And when by Hamburg steamer	5 cents.
When conveyed, under Article III., by United States steamer	1 cent.
And when by Hamburg 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 Hamburg office, when sent by Hamburg steamers.

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

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 Hamburg, 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 Hamburg, it shall be paid over by the United States at Hamburg; and if in favor of the United States, it shall be paid over by Hamburg 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.

Accounts to be settled quarterly.

Balances to be paid and where.

ARTICLE VIII. The steamers of either government plying between New York and Hamburg shall be required to convey all dead and re-

Dead letters and official communications to be free of charge.

turned letters, and the official communications of the respective Post Departments of the United States and Hamburg, free of charge.

Sailing days of steamers.

ARTICLE IX. The sailing days of the steamers carrying the mail between New York and Hamburg under this arrangement shall be so arranged as not to conflict with the schedule days of sailing of the United States mail steamers plying between New York and Bremen, and between New York and Havre; and also of the Bremen mail steamships plying between New York and Bremen; and shall as near as practicable, alternate at regular intervals with the days of sailing of the steamers conveying the mail to and from Bremen and Havre.

When this convention takes effect.

ARTICLE X. This arrangement is to go into effect on the first day of July, 1857, and 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 cease whenever all the direct steamers between New York and Hamburg cease running.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington on the twelfth day of June, and at New York on the thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

HORATIO KING.

FERDINAND KARCK,

Commissioner for the Hanseatic Republic of Hamburg.

Approved:

AARON V. BROWN, *P. M. G. U. S.*

This convention is ratified with the advice and consent of the Senate of Hamburg.

C. H. MERCK, LL. D.,

Member of the Senate and President of the Post-Office Department.
HAMBURG, August 7th, 1857.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE

August 23, 1860. *Agreed upon between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of the Hanseatic Republic of Hamburg, modifying Article II. of the Postal Convention of June 12, 1857.*

Rates of postage.

THE international correspondence, conveyed either by the United States or by Hamburg steamers, between the United States or its Territories and Hamburg, will be hereafter subject to the following postage charges, viz.:—

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 one ounce and a half	30 "
Above one ounce and a half, but not exceeding two ounces	40 "

Increased rates.

And the postage will increase in this scale of progression, to wit: Additional ten cents for each additional half-ounce, or fraction of half-ounce.

Prepayment optional, &c.

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.

This additional article takes the place of Article second of the postal convention of the 12th of June, 1857, which in all other respects remains in force.

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

[SEAL.]

J. HOLT,

Postmaster-General.

[SEAL.]

H. R. KUNHARDS,

Acting Consul for the Republic of Hamburg.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES

Agreed upon between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of the Hanseatic Republic of Hamburg, providing for the Registration of valuable Letters, to be conveyed by the United States and Hamburg Lines of Steamers, direct, between New York and Hamburg. November 11, 1863.

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 Hamburg, to be thence conveyed by the United States and Hamburg lines of steamers, shall, from and after the first day of December, 1863, 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 Hamburg, or their revenues, liable for the loss of such letters or packets, or the contents thereof.

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 Hamburg, respectively, for the purpose of being forwarded thence by the next direct steamer.

ARTICLE III. The respective exchange offices of New York and Hamburg 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 envelope, sealed, and addressed to the postmaster of the corresponding exchange office of Hamburg or New York.

ARTICLE IV. On the receipt of registered letters for delivery or distribution at either of the respective exchange offices of Hamburg or New York, the postmaster of such receiving office will compare the letters with the bill, and endorse it "correct," if it is found so, or will note the error, if there be one, in the manner prescribed with regard to registered

letters received from an inland post-office. He will then fill up the corresponding return bill, noting upon it whether correct or otherwise, and will see that it is returned by the first mail thereafter to the office of mailing (New York or Hamburg as the case may be).

Registered letters to be forwarded.

ARTICLE V. Registered letters received at New York from Hamburg, or received at Hamburg from New York, and destined for an inland post-office, shall be forwarded in the same manner as other registered letters originally mailed at either office.

Accounts for registered letters.

ARTICLE VI. The United States and Hamburg Post-Offices shall reciprocally account to each other upon such registered letters as shall be exchanged between them in the same manner as prescribed in the postal convention signed at Washington on the 12th day of June, and at New York on the 30th day of June, 1857; but the registration fee of five cents shall accrue to the United States Post-Office Department upon all registered letters sent from the United States to Hamburg, and to the Hamburg Post-Office Department upon all registered letters sent from Hamburg to the United States.

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

[SEAL.]

M. BLAIR,

Postmaster-General, U. S.

[SEAL.]

R. SCHLEIDEN,

*Minister Resident of the
Hanseatic Republics.*

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE

March 28, 1864. *Agreed upon between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of the Hanseatic Republic of Hamburg, providing for the Conveyance of the International Correspondence in time of War or threatening War.*

Correspondence may be exchanged in a steamer under a neutral flag, in case of war, &c.

WHENEVER, in consequence of war or threatening war, the international correspondence between the United States and Hamburg cannot be conveyed by United States or Hamburg steamers, it may be conveyed by steamers under neutral flag, subject to all the stipulations, rules, and regulations, contained in the several postal conventions heretofore concluded between both countries.

In witness whereof we have hereto set our names and affixed the seals of our respective offices, this twenty-eighth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, at the city of Washington.

[SEAL.]

M. BLAIR,

Postmaster-General, U. S.

[SEAL.]

R. SCHLEIDEN,

*Minister Resident of the
Hanseatic Republics.*