

Postal Convention between the United States of America and Italy.

ARTICLES

Agreed upon between John A. Kasson, Esq., invested with special Powers to this End, and Signor Commander Don Giovanni Barbavara, Director-General of Posts of Italy, by Virtue of his full Powers, in order to establish a regular Exchange of Correspondence between the United States of America and Italy. July 8, 1863.

ARTICLE I. There shall be a regular exchange of correspondence in closed mails, between the Post Department of the United States and Post Department of Italy, upon the conditions set forth in the following articles: — Exchange of correspondence.

ARTICLE II. The exchange of mails shall be effected by means of the transatlantic steamers and of the intermediate routes of transit upon which the two postal administrations shall hereafter agree; or, in the absence of such an agreement, each postal administration shall designate the steamers and the route of transit by which the mails which it despatches shall be conveyed. Exchange of mails how to be made.

ARTICLE III. The offices for the exchange of mails on the part of the United States, are — Offices for exchange of mails.

- 1st. New York.
- 2d. Boston.

On the part of Italy, are —

- 1st. The travelling office from Turin to Susa, when the transit is by the way of France and England.
- 2d. The travelling office from Milan to Camerlata, or the travelling office from Arona to Magadino, when the transit is by way of Germany and Switzerland.

The Post Departments of the United States and of Italy, whenever they shall find it necessary, may agree upon other offices of exchange.

ARTICLE IV. The following articles shall be admitted into the mails exchanged between the two countries, to wit: (1) Ordinary letters; (2) Registered letters; (3) Documents of business and other written documents which have not the character of a direct personal correspondence, corrected proofs, samples of merchandise, including grains and seeds, and not having a mercantile value in themselves; (4) Newspapers and prints of all kinds, in sheets, in pamphlets, and in books; sheets of music, engravings, lithographs, photographs, drawings, maps, and plans. What articles may be admitted into the mails.

ARTICLE V. The weight of each packet of samples of merchandise shall not exceed 500 grammes. The weight of any other packet of mailable articles shall not exceed 2,000 grammes; and the form of the packet shall be regulated by the practice of the despatching department. Weight of packets not to exceed, &c.

ARTICLE VI. All mailable articles, except letters, shall be sent under band, or so enclosed that postal agents in both countries may readily verify the contents of the packet. Mailable articles, except letters, how to be sent.

ARTICLE VII. The standard weight and progression for the single rate of postage upon all articles enumerated in Article IV. of this convention are established as follows: (1) For letters, 15 grammes; (2) For documentary manuscripts not having the character of a direct personal correspondence, for corrected proofs, and for samples of merchandise, 40 Weights for rates of postage.

grammes; (3) For newspapers and prints of all kinds, embracing all mailable articles not otherwise assigned, the standard shall not be less than 40 grammes in Italy, or one ounce and a half in the United States; but each post department may establish a higher standard weight of progression adapted to its interior requirements for articles of this class which it despatches.

Prepayment of letters optional.

ARTICLE VIII. The prepayment of postage upon ordinary letters exchanged between the United States and Italy shall be optional; but letters not prepaid, or insufficiently prepaid, shall be charged in the country of destination with an extra rate of 5 cents in the United States and of 30 centimes in Italy. The prepayment of postage upon all other articles, including registered letters, shall be compulsory; and when they shall be in no part prepaid they shall not be despatched; but in such case they shall be, if practicable, restored to the sender.

Extra rate on those not prepaid, &c.

Articles under band, partly prepaid, to be forwarded.

ARTICLE IX. The articles under band, which shall be in part prepaid, shall be forwarded to their destination; but they shall be charged there with twice the amount of the difference between the rate due and the sum actually prepaid.

Rates of postage.

ARTICLE X. The international rate of postage upon the correspondence exchanged between the two countries is based upon the following elements, to wit: (1) The interior rate of the United States; (2) The interior rate of Italy; (3) The maritime rate; (4) The intermediate transit rate; and any reduction which either country may obtain from the existing maritime and transit charges shall inure to the benefit of the people of the two countries by a corresponding reduction of the international rates of postage established in the following article so soon as the two departments shall have adjusted the amount.

Same subject.

ARTICLE XI. The international rates, combined of the elements above mentioned, and applicable to each standard of progression for the several classes of mailable articles, are established as follows, to wit: (1) For ordinary letters 20 cents in the United States and 1 franc in Italy; (2) For registered letters, in addition to the ordinary prepaid rate, an extra charge of 10 cents in the United States and of 50 centimes in Italy; (3) For documentary manuscripts, corrected proofs, and samples of merchandise, 20 cents in the United States and 1 franc in Italy; (4) For journals and all other prints, embracing articles not otherwise enumerated, the standard single rate shall be fixed by the despatching department, limited, nevertheless, by the maximum rate of 4 cents in the United States and of 15 centimes in Italy.

Interior single rates.

ARTICLE XII. Of the combined rate of international letter postage hereby established, three cents represents the interior single rate of the United States, and fifteen centimes the interior single rate of Italy. The remainder of the combined rate is assigned to the payment of the cost of sea conveyance and of intermediate transit, by whatever route the mails may be conveyed.

Registered letters and the fee.

ARTICLE XIII. Articles under band described in the third and fourth paragraphs of Article IV. of this convention may be registered in either country for despatch to the other, upon payment of the registration fee of ten cents in the United States and of fifty centimes in Italy, in addition to the prepayment of the regular postage.

Accounts.

ARTICLE XIV. In order to simplify postal accounts between the departments as much as possible, and to prepare the way for their ultimate abolition, each Post Department shall retain to its own use all the postal rates and charges which it shall collect, whether by virtue of prepayment or post payment; and each department shall pay the cost of conveyance of the mails which it despatches as far as the frontier of the country of destination. It is also especially provided that the cost of intermediate ocean and land conveyance of the closed mails shall be first defrayed by that one of the two departments which shall have obtained from the in-

intermediaries the most favorable pecuniary conditions of such conveyance ; and any amount so paid by one department for account of the other shall be reimbursed.

ARTICLE XV. It is distinctly agreed that all mailable articles addressed from one country to the other shall be exempt in the country of destination from any rate or fee whatever beyond the charges established by this convention.

Mailable articles exempt from other charges, &c.

ARTICLE XVI. Correspondence exclusively relating to the postal service shall be transmitted on both sides without any postal charge therefor.

Free correspondence.

ARTICLE XVII. Correspondence of all kinds erroneously transmitted, or wrongly addressed, shall be promptly returned to the despatching office. Articles which shall have been addressed to persons who have departed from the place of destination, leaving their address, shall be forwarded, or returned, as the case may require, charged with the postage which the addressee would have been required to pay on delivery.

Missent, &c. letters.

ARTICLE XVIII. Letters, all registered articles, and all documentary manuscripts, which shall not be delivered to their address, shall be restored to the despatching department. Any of these articles which may have been forwarded by one department to the other on account shall be restored, and credit taken for the amount originally charged by the despatching office. But samples of merchandise, newspapers, prints of all kinds, and all mailable articles not excepted which cannot be delivered to their address, shall remain at the disposal of the receiving department, provided they shall not be reclaimed by the sender or addressee within six months from the date of their despatch.

Letters, &c. not delivered to be returned.

ARTICLE XIX. Neither Post Department is required to make distribution within its jurisdiction of any articles the circulation of which shall be prohibited by the laws in force in the country of destination.

Certain articles may not be distributed.

ARTICLE XX. The Post Departments of the United States and of Italy reciprocally engage to grant each to the other the gratuitous conveyance across their respective territories of all correspondence which shall be exchanged in closed mails with any countries to which they may respectively serve as intermediaries : provided always, that such conveyance shall be effected by the ordinary means of mail conveyance in use ; and that the countries taking the benefit of such gratuitous service shall reciprocally accord the like privilege of free transit across their respective territories. The privilege is also accorded to each administration of sending an agent, at its own expense, in charge of the mails in transit. The further privilege is accorded of a free transfer of closed mails in the ports and harbors of the respective countries from one vessel to another, in continuance of their conveyance to final destination.

Closed mails without charge.

ARTICLE XXI. Correspondence of all kinds which either department shall despatch to the other for the purpose of being thence forwarded in its mails to another country of destination, shall be subject to the rates established by Article XI. of this convention, added to the ulterior rate in force beyond the frontier of the forwarding country, so that only one interior rate shall be received by the forwarding department.

Correspondence despatched to be forwarded.

ARTICLE XXII. Small sums of money may be mutually transmitted between the two countries by means of postal money orders, and the rates and conditions may be arranged by an agreement between the two departments after the system of postal money orders shall have been adopted by the United States.

Postal money orders.

ARTICLE XXIII. Until the same scale of weights shall have been adopted by the two departments, it is agreed that, for the purposes of this convention, fifteen grammes shall be taken as the equivalent of a half-ounce, forty grammes as the equivalent of one ounce and a half, and so with their respective multiples in progression as applied by the respective offices. It is also understood that the rates upon correspondence shall be

Weights and equivalents.

applied according to the weight stated by the despatching department, except in case of manifest error.

Details to be settled.

ARTICLE XXIV. The two departments shall settle by agreement between them all measures of detail and arrangement required to carry into effect this convention, which may be modified from time to time by special arrangements to be agreed upon directly between the two Post Departments.

This convention when to take effect, and how long to continue;

ARTICLE XXV. This convention shall take effect from a day to be fixed by the two Post Departments, and shall continue in force until one year from notice given by one of the departments to the other of its intention to rescind it.

when to be ratified.

ARTICLE XXVI. This convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged as soon as possible.

In witness whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present convention and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done in duplicate, at Turin, the eighth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

[L. s.]
[L. s.]

JOHN A. KASSON.
G. B. BARBAVARA.

We, having seen and examined the above-signed postal convention, and having approved thereof in all and each of its parts, have accepted, ratified, and confirmed the same, as by these presents we accept, ratify, and confirm it, promising to observe it, and to cause it to be inviolably observed.

In faith whereof, we have signed with our hand the present letter of ratification and have caused our royal seal to be affixed thereto.

Given at Turin, the sixth of the month of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in the fifteenth year of our reign.

[L. s.]

VICTOR EMMANUEL.

On behalf of His Majesty the King, the Minister of State for foreign affairs,

VISCONTI VENOSTA.

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

[L. s.]

ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, May 4, 1866.

The undersigned having met together for the purpose of exchanging the ratifications by the President of the United States of America and His Majesty the King of Italy of the postal convention concluded and signed at Turin on the 8th of July, 1863, and the said acts of ratification having been produced, and having, after careful collation, been found in good and due form, the exchange thereof took place this day. In witness whereof, the undersigned have prepared the present certificate, which they have signed in duplicate and sealed with the seal of their arms.

Done at Florence the 14th day of June, 1866.

[L. s.]
[L. s.]

GEORGE P. MARSH.
A. LA MARMORA.