

Postal Convention between the United States and Prussia. Signed at Washington, 17th July, and at Berlin, 26th August, 1852. July 17 and August 26, 1852.

ARTICLES

Agreed upon between the General Post-Office of the United States of America and the General Post-Office of Prussia, for the reciprocal Receipt and Delivery of Letters and Packets, in closed Mails, to be conveyed through England under the 8th Article of the Postal Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of the 15th December, 1848, and through Belgium as well in Virtue of a Convention between Prussia and Belgium, as between Great Britain and Belgium, the Benefit of the Latter enuring in this Respect to the United States by Virtue of the aforesaid Postal Treaty of 15th December, 1848. In Pursuance of and under the Authority above cited, the following Details for such closed Mails between the United States and Prussia are hereby agreed upon, viz. :—

ARTICLE I. The post-offices of New York and Boston shall be the United States offices of Exchange, and Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) shall be the Prussian office of exchange of all closed mails between the two countries, by means of the American and English, and the English and Belgian mail lines. Offices of exchange.

Additional or different offices of exchange may hereafter be selected in either or both countries by mutual agreement of the two Post Administrations.

ARTICLE II. The international correspondence, as hereinafter stated, between the United States, or its Territories, and Prussia, including all the states now belonging to, or which may hereafter join the German-Austrian Postal Union, will be subject to the following postal charges, viz. :— Rates of postage.

The United States postage on each letter or packet not exceeding half an ounce in weight will be	5 cents.
The charge imposed to meet the expenses of the transmission in closed mails between the two countries, including sea and British and Belgian transit postage, will be	20 “
The Prussian postage,	5 “
or what is practically equivalent thereto in Prussian coin.	—
	30 cents.

Upon all letters originating and posted in one country and deliverable in the other, these rates of postage shall be combined into one rate, of which payment in advance shall be optional in either country. It shall not however be permitted to pay less than the whole combined rate. If the letter is of the weight of half an ounce or under, the combined rate will be 30 cents.

Above half an ounce and not over one ounce, 60 cents.
 Above one ounce, but not exceeding two ounces, \$ 1.20.
 And the postage will increase in this scale of progression, to wit : An additional 60 cents for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce. Increased rates.

ARTICLE III. The United States offices of exchange, in charging postage due to the post-offices of Prussia, shall uniformly make use of weights, having the American ounce for unit, with its divisions into half and quarter ounces ; and the Prussian offices of exchange, in charging the postage due to the United States, shall uniformly make use of weights What weights to be used.

having the Prussian *Loth* for unit, (two *Loth* being considered equal to one ounce American.)

Foreign postage to be added on certain letters.

Lists.

ARTICLE IV. On all letters originating and posted in other countries beyond the United States and mailed to and deliverable in Prussia, or in any other of the states forming the German Postal Union; or originating and posted in countries beyond the states forming said German Postal Union, and mailed to and deliverable in the United States or its Territories, the foreign postage (other than that of the states belonging to the German Austrian Postal Union, and other than that of the United States) is to be added to the postage stated in Article II. 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, through the closed mails, any letter from foreign countries beyond it, or for foreign countries beyond the country to which the closed mail is sent.

Newspapers.

Rate of postage, and to be prepaid.

Postage how divided.

Accounts between the two countries.

ARTICLE V. Newspapers, not weighing more than two ounces each, may be sent in said closed mails, when the whole postage of six cents is prepaid thereon at the mailing office. The Prussian charge will be two cents, or the nearest practicable equivalent in Prussian coin, per newspaper, — the Prussian office to account to Belgium for its transit postage thereon, when the newspaper is sent in closed mails from the United States; and the United States charge of postage will be four cents per newspaper, — the United States to account with the British Post-Office both for the British transit postage of two cents thereon, (whether the paper is sent from or received in the United States,) and for the Belgian transit postage of one cent each on all newspapers sent in said closed mails from Prussia. The Prussian newspaper charge of two cents, and the American charge of four cents, is to be in all cases collected of the sender; and no newspaper shall be admitted in such closed mails unless the whole postage thereon shall have been prepaid. Two thirds of such newspaper postage shall be credited to the United States, and one third to Prussia, whether the same is collected in Prussia or the United States. Said newspapers 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.

ARTICLE VI. The Prussian Post-Office is to account to the United States Post-Office in respect to all letter postages collected by Prussia from the closed mails, as follows, viz. :—

On mails sent from the United States, for each unpaid letter weighing half an ounce or less, twenty-three cents.

And also on mails sent from Prussia, for each prepaid letter of half an ounce or under, twenty-five cents.

And, in addition thereto, the Prussian office is to account to Belgium for its transit rate on all letters received in said closed mails from the United States.

The United States Post-Office, when it collects the postage on letters sent in said closed mails, is to account to the Prussian Post-Office as follows, viz. :—

On mails sent from the United States, for each prepaid letter weighing half an ounce or less, seven cents.

And also on mails sent from Prussia, for each unpaid letter of half an ounce or under, five cents.

And the United States Post-Office is to account to the British Post-Office for British transit postage at the rate of fifty-seven and one half cents per ounce when the mails are conveyed by the British packets

across the Atlantic, and at the rate of seventeen and one half cents per ounce when conveyed by the United States packets across the Atlantic, in either direction; in addition to which, the United States Post-Office is to account to the British Post-Office for the Belgian transit postage, at eight cents per ounce, on all letters sent in said closed mails from Prussia; that is, whenever, in all the above cases, the British and Belgian conveyances are used.

ARTICLE VII. The United States engage that, in the event of any future reduction by the United States and Great Britain of the Atlantic sea postage, on closed mails, a corresponding reduction shall at the same time be made in their charge against the Prussian office on account of the Atlantic sea conveyance of letters under this convention. Future reduction of sea postage.

ARTICLE VIII. The rates of postage, herein agreed on, being based on the supposition that four letters to the ounce will be about the average number, it is mutually stipulated and agreed, in order to compensate to either party the loss which might be sustained in case the average should be less than four to the ounce, that higher rates of postages, sufficient to prevent loss to either party, shall be established by agreement between the Post Departments of the two countries, as soon as practicable after the accounts for a single year have been examined and settled, and thereupon such changes shall be made in the sixth article of this convention as shall be just and equitable. Higher rates to be established, if, &c.

ARTICLE IX. The closed mails will be made up at the office of New York or Boston, in the United States respectively, as the conveyance may be directed by the United States Post-Office from either of said ports, to Aix-la-Chapelle, (Aachen,) in Prussia, and at Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen) to New York or Boston, according as the conveyance may be directed as aforesaid. Closed mails.

ARTICLE X. Every mail between said offices of exchange in the United States and in Prussia shall be accompanied by a letter bill, specifying the amount due to each office on each class of correspondence according to the number of letters. The receiving exchange office shall return by next post to the mailing exchange office an acknowledgment of the receipt of said mail. Letter bills and acknowledgments shall be according to the forms annexed, marked A and B. Letter bill.

ARTICLE XI. If there should be no letters or other correspondence to send at the usual period for making up said mails from either of the offices of exchange, a blank letter bill, showing that fact, shall nevertheless be sent to the corresponding office. Post, pp. 968-971.

ARTICLE XII. The letter bills and acknowledgments are to serve as vouchers to the quarterly accounts, and if in checking thereon the amount of postage, there should be a difference between the mailing and receiving office, the amount on the verification side shall be received as the true amount, when checked by two officers. Blank letter bills to be sent, if there are no letters.

ARTICLE XIII. 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, according to forms annexed, marked C and D; and having been examined, compared, and settled by the General Post-Office in Berlin, 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 Prussia, it shall be paid over by the United States at Berlin; and if in favor of the United States, it shall be paid over by Prussia 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. Vouchers.

ARTICLE XIV. Dead letters shall be mutually returned after the expiration of a proper period to effect their delivery, according to the regulations of each country, and for the same amount of postage, Accounts to be closed quarterly.

Post, pp. 972-974.

Balances and how to be paid.

Dead letters.

originally charged by the sending office, which shall be allowed in discharge of the account of the office to which they were sent. These returns of postage are to be claimed in a bill made up agreeably to forms annexed, marked E and F, which is to accompany such dead letters.

Post, p. 375.

Refused newspapers. Newspapers which are refused, or which become dead in the post-offices of either country, are not to be returned.

Missent, &c. letters.

Redirected letters.

ARTICLE XV. Letters misdirected or missent, or which may require the prepayment of postage, shall be returned without delay and credit taken in the letter bill for the amount of postage originally charged upon them. Redirected letters shall be mutually returned by the first post, charged with the additional postage for such return, and credits shall be taken in the letter bill for such postage as the receiving office has been charged with, with its share of the additional charge.

Marks and stamps upon letters.

ARTICLE XVI. On all prepaid letters the payment of the postage shall be distinctly marked by stamping the word "Paid," and the amount of postage in red ink on the upper right-hand corner of the letter, and the stamp of the exchange office sending the letter shall, in every instance, be impressed on the face of the letter; and the stamp of the exchange office receiving the letter shall, in every instance, be impressed on the back of the same. The name of the ship by which the letters are received or sent, or the words "Am. Packet" or "Br. Packet," as they are carried by the one or the other, shall also be stamped on the back of each letter, so that the amount of credit to be allowed in the British Post-Office for dead letters returned can be shown.

Weight of letters, &c. in each closed mail to be inserted in letter bill.

Ante, pp. 785, 790.

ARTICLE XVII. The United States exchange office shall, upon each despatch of a closed mail to Prussia, insert in the letter bill to the London Post-Office by the same ship, under the tenth article of the postal convention between the United States and Great Britain of 15th December, 1848, the weight of letters and number of newspapers so sent; and on receipt of each closed mail from Prussia, shall insert in the acknowledgment of the receipt of the British mails the weight of letters and number of newspapers so received in the closed mails from Prussia.

Accounts and credits.

ARTICLE XVIII. The United States Post-Office is to take credit from the British Post-Office for all British transit and sea postage charged on such letters transmitted in the United States and Prussian closed mails as have become dead, or were missent or misdirected, as well as for the Belgian transit postage on such letters sent in said closed mails from Prussia; and the Prussian office is to take credit of the Belgian office for the Belgian transit postage on such letters sent in said closed mails from the United States.

Convention may be amended.

ARTICLE XIX. In case any change or amendment in the provisions of this convention shall be desired by either party, the same may be proposed by such party; and when the details thereof shall be agreed to and approved by both parties, this convention shall be considered as changed or amended accordingly. And it is agreed that measures shall be taken to make such arrangements with Great Britain and Belgium, and such change in the provisions of this convention, as shall authorize the sending in the closed mails before mentioned, at a fixed rate per ounce, of periodicals and other printed matter, (other than newspapers,) the weight of the packages of such printed matter to be limited to sixteen ounces.

This convention when to take effect.

ARTICLE XX. This agreement is to go into effect in each country at the expiration of a month from the time that notice is received of its being concluded: *Provided*, The British transit postage or charge on the closed mails sent under its provision, shall have been reduced to 17½ cents per ounce by agreement between Great Britain and Prussia; and it is to be continued in force until annulled by mutual consent, or by either Post Department after the expiration of one year's previous notice to the other.

In testimony whereof, the heads of the departments have affixed their names and seals of office to these presents at the dates set opposite to each respectively.

[SEAL.]

N. K. HALL,
Postmaster-General, U. S. America.

July 17, 1852.

[SEAL.]

VON DER HEYDT,
*Royal Prussian Minister of State for
Commerce, Trades, and Public Works.*

BERLIN, the 26th August, 1852.

A. (See p. 965.)

LETTER BILL

FOR THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PRUSSIA.

Mail from _____ to Aix la Chapelle by the _____ Packet.

POST-OFFICE _____,
the _____ of _____, 185 .

The following articles are sent herewith, the receipt of which it is requested may be acknowledged, viz. :—

	Statement by the United States Office.			Verification by the Prussian Office.	
	Number.	Dollars.	Cents.	Dollars.	Cents.
<p>§ I. <i>Unpaid Letters, &c. to be placed to the credit of the United States.</i></p>					
1. Unpaid letters from the United States, for Prussia, and countries beyond, at 23 cents the single rate					
2. Unpaid letters from foreign countries, in transit through the United States, for Prussia, &c.					
3. Missent, redirected, and returned letters from Prussia					
<p>§ II. <i>Paid letters, &c. to be placed to the credit of the Prussian Office.</i></p>					
4. Paid letters from the United States, for Prussia, at seven cents the single rate					
5. Paid letters for States beyond the German-Austrian Postal Union					
6. Paid newspapers from the United States, for Prussia, at two cents each					

_____, Postmaster.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

FOR THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PRUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

POST-OFFICE _____,
the _____ of _____, 185-.

The mail from Aix-la-Chapelle to _____ by the _____ packet of the _____ of _____,
185-, has been received, containing the following articles, viz. :—

	Statement by the Prussian Office.			Verification by the United States Office.	
	Number.	Dollars.	Cents.	Dollars.	Cents.
<p>§ I. <i>Unpaid Letters, &c. to be placed to the credit of the Prussian Office.</i></p>					
1. Unpaid letters from Prussia, for the United States, at 5 cents the single rate					
2. Unpaid letters originating in States beyond the German-Austrian Postal Union					
3. Missent, redirected, and returned letters received from the United States					
<p>§ II. <i>Paid letters, &c. to be placed to the credit of the United States Office.</i></p>					
4. Paid letters from Prussia, for the United States, at twenty-five cents the single rate					
5. Paid newspapers from Prussia, for the United States, at four cents each					
6. Paid letters for foreign countries, in transit through the United States					

_____, Postmaster.

B. (See p. 965.)

LETTER BILL

FOR THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF PRUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

Mail from Aachen to _____ by the _____ Packet.

POST-OFFICE _____,
the _____ of _____, 185—.

The following articles are sent herewith, the receipt of which it is requested may be acknowledged, viz. : —

	Statement by the Prussian Office.		Verification by the United States Office.	
	Dollars.	Cents.	Dollars.	Cents.
<p>§ I. <i>Unpaid letters to be placed to the credit of the Prussian Office.</i></p> <p>1. Unpaid letters from Prussia for the United States, at five cents the single rate</p> <p>2. Unpaid letters originating in States beyond the German Postal Union</p> <p>3. Missent, redirected, and returned letters received from the United States</p>				
<p>§ II. <i>Paid letters, &c. to be placed to the credit of the United States.</i></p> <p>4. Paid letters from Prussia for the United States, at twenty-five cents the single rate</p> <p>5. Paid newspapers from Prussia for the United States, at four cents each</p>				

_____, Postmaster.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

FOR THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PRUSSIA.

POST-OFFICE OF AACHEN,

the _____ of _____, 185-.

The mail from _____ to _____ by the _____ packet of the _____ of _____, 185-,
has been received, containing the following articles, viz.:—

	Statement by the United States Office.		Verification by the Prussian Office.	
	Dollars.	Cents.	Dollars.	Cents.
<p>§ I. <i>Unpaid letters to be placed to the credit of the United States Office.</i></p>				
1. Unpaid letters from the United States for Prussia at 23 cents the single rate				
2. Missent, redirected, and returned letters received from Prussia				
<p>§ II. <i>Paid letters, &c. to be placed to the credit of the Prussian Office.</i></p>				
3. Paid letters from the United States for Prussia at 7 cents the single rate				
4. Paid letters for States beyond the German Postal Union .				
5. Paid newspapers from the United States for Prussia at 2 cents each				

_____, Postmaster.

C. — Continued.

Exchange of Mails between the United States and the Kingdom of Prussia, from ———, 185—, to ———, 185—.

MAILS RECEIVED.													
CREDIT OF PRUSSIA.								CREDIT OF UNITED STATES.					
Ship.	Date of Bill.	Unpaid Letters from Prussia for United States.		Unpaid Letters from States beyond German-Austrian Postal Union.		Missent, returned, and redirected Letters.		Paid Letters from Prussia for United States.		Paid Newspapers from Prussia for United States.		Paid Letters for foreign countries, &c. in transit through the United States.	
		(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)	
		Statement by Prussian office.	Verification by U. States office.	Statement by Prussian office.	Verification by U. States office.	Statement by Prussian office.	Verification by U. States office.	Statement by Prussian office.	Verification by U. States office.	Statement by Prussian office.	Verification by U. States office.	Statement by Prussian office.	Verification by U. States office.

D.

(See p. 965.)

THE KINGDOM OF PRUSSIA IN ACCOUNT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

[Service of the Post-Office Department.]

Dr.

From ———, 185—, to ———, 185—.

Cr.

MAILS SENT.		MAILS SENT.	
For postage on [1] Unpaid letters		For postage on [4] Paid letters for Prussia	
“ “ “ [2] Unpaid letters in transit through the United States		“ “ “ [5] Paid letters for States beyond the German-Austrian Postal Union	
“ “ “ [3] Missent, returned, and redirected*let- ters		“ “ “ [6] Paid newspapers for Prussia	
MAILS RECEIVED.		MAILS RECEIVED.	
For postage on [4] Paid letters		For postage on [1] Unpaid letters from Prussia	
“ “ “ [5] Paid newspapers		“ “ “ [2] Unpaid letters from States beyond the German-Austrian Postal Union	
“ “ “ [6] Paid letters for foreign countries, &c. in transit		“ “ “ [3] Missent, returned, and redirected let- ters	
For postage on dead letters returned to Berlin		For postage on dead letters returned to Washington	
Balance due United States		Balance due Kingdom of Prussia	

E.

(See p. 966.)

ACCOUNT of Dead Letters returned to Washington from Berlin, being Letters received in the Dead Letter Office during the Month of _____, 185-.

Article in the Letter Bill in which the Correspondence is included.	Description of Correspondence.	Number of Letters.	Rates of Postage.	Amount.	Remarks.
<i>Unpaid Correspondence.</i>					
1	Unpaid Letters from the United States for Prussia				
<i>Paid Correspondence.</i>					
3	Paid letters from the United States for Prussia				
Amount due Prussia, \$					

General Post-Office, Berlin, _____, 185-.

_____, Inspector.

F.

(See p. 966.)

ACCOUNT of Dead Letters returned to Berlin, from Washington, being Letters received in the Dead Letter Office during the Month of _____, 185-.

Article in the Letter Bill in which the Correspondence is included.	Description of Correspondence.	Number of Letters.	Rates of Postage.	Amount.	Remarks.
<i>Unpaid Correspondence.</i>					
1	Unpaid letters from Prussia for the United States				
2	Unpaid letters originating in States beyond the German-Austrian Postal Union				
<i>Paid Correspondence.</i>					
4	Paid letters from Prussia for the United States				
Amount due the United States, \$					

Post-Office Department, Washington, _____, 185-.

_____, Third Assistant Postmaster-General.