

Postal Convention between the United States of America and Bermuda.

Aug. 9 and 29,
1876.

The undersigned, being thereunto duly authorized by their respective governments, have agreed upon the following articles, establishing and regulating the exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and Bermuda :

ARTICLE I.

There shall be an exchange of mails between the United States of America and Bermuda, by such means of transportation as are now, or shall hereafter be, established with the approval of the respective Post Departments of the two countries, comprising letters, and manuscript subject by the laws of either country to letter rate of postage, newspapers, books, printed matter of every kind, sheets of music, engravings, lithographs, photographs, drawings, maps, and plans originating in either country and addressed to and deliverable in the other country. Exchange of mails.

Each office shall make its own arrangements for, and at its own cost pay the expense of, the intermediate sea-transportation of the mails which it despatches to the other.

ARTICLE II.

New York shall be the office of exchange on the side of the United States, and Hamilton shall be the office of exchange on the side of Bermuda, for all mails transmitted between the two countries under this arrangement; and all mail matter transmitted in either direction between the respective offices of exchange shall be forwarded in closed bags or pouches, under seal, addressed to the corresponding exchange office. Offices of exchange.

The two Post Departments may at any time discontinue either of said offices of exchange or establish others.

ARTICLE III.

The standard weight for the single rate of postage and rule of progression shall be : Standard weights for mail-matter.

1. For letters or manuscripts subject by law to letter rate of postage, fifteen grammes, (one half ounce avoirdupois.)

2. For all other correspondence mentioned in the first article, that which each country shall adopt for the mails which it despatches to the other, adapted to the convenience and habits of its interior administration. But each country shall give notice to the other of the standard weight it adopts, and of any subsequent change thereof. The weight stated by the despatching exchange office shall always be accepted, except in cases of manifest error.

ARTICLE IV.

No accounts shall be kept between the Post Office Departments of the two countries, on the international correspondence, written or printed, exchanged between them; but each country shall levy, collect, and retain to its own use, the following postal charges, viz : No accounts to be kept.

Single letter-rate.	1. The rate of postage to be charged and collected in the United States on each prepaid letter or manuscript subject to letter postage, addressed to Bermuda, shall be five (5) cents United States currency, for each weight of fifteen grammes or fraction thereof; and the rate of postage to be charged and collected in Bermuda on each prepaid letter or manuscript subject to letter postage, addressed to the United States of America, shall be two pence, the same to be in each case in full of all charges whatever, to the place of destination in either country.
Unpaid letters.	The charge on unpaid letters shall be double the rate levied in the country of destination on prepaid letters.
Newspaper, etc., rates.	2. On all other articles of correspondence mentioned in the first article, the Post Departments of the United States and Bermuda may respectively levy, collect, and retain to their separate and exclusive use, such rates of postage adapted to their interior administration and to the cost of sea transportation, as they shall deem advisable; which rates shall, in like manner, be in full of all charges whatever, to the place of destination in either country. But each office shall give notice to the other of the rates it adopts for such correspondence, and of any subsequent change thereof. The maximum weight of such correspondence is fixed at 4 pounds.
Maximum weight	
Newspapers, etc., how inclosed.	Newspapers and other correspondence of the class referred to in the preceding paragraph, shall be sent in narrow bands, or covers open at the sides or ends, so that they may be easily examined; and packages of such correspondence shall be subject to the laws and regulations of each country in regard to their liability to pay customs duty, if containing dutiable goods; or to be rated with letter postage when containing written matter, or for any other cause specified in said laws and regulations.
Customs duties.	
Containing written matter.	

ARTICLE V.

Payment of postage.	Prepayment of postage of every description of article can be effected only by means of postage stamps or stamped envelopes valid in the country of origin.
Marking stamps.	The correspondence to be reciprocally exchanged, shall be impressed on the upper part of the address with a stamp indicating the place of origin and date of posting.
Unpaid, etc., letters, how marked.	Unpaid or insufficiently paid letters, or manuscripts subject by law to letter rate of postage, shall, in addition, be impressed with the stamp T (tax to be paid), the application of which shall devolve upon the exchange office of the country of origin.
When not marked.	Every international letter, or manuscript subject to letter postage, which does not bear the stamp T, shall be considered as fully paid to destination, and treated accordingly, unless there be an obvious error.
Amount of unpaid postage to be indicated.	When a letter, or any manuscript subject by law to letter postage, unpaid or insufficiently paid, shall be liable, by reason of its weight, to more than a single rate of postage, the despatching office shall indicate in the upper right-hand corner of the address, in ordinary figures, the number of rates to which it is liable.
Valueless stamps, how indicated.	When a letter shall be insufficiently prepaid by means of postage stamps, the despatching office shall indicate, in figures in black ink, placed by the side of the postage stamps, their total value expressed in the currency of the country of destination.
Deficient postage, amount of.	In case postage stamps may be used which are not of any value in the country of origin, no account shall be taken of them. This fact shall be indicated by the figure "0," placed by the side of the postage stamps.
Fractions of unit of charge.	The office of the country of destination shall charge the insufficiently paid letters with the amount of the deficient postage calculated at the rate of an unpaid letter of the same weight.
	In case of need, fractions may be raised to the necessary unit of charge in force in the country of destination.

ARTICLE VI.

Letters, and other communications in manuscript, which, from any cause, cannot be delivered to their address, after the expiration of a proper period to effect their delivery shall be reciprocally returned every month, unopened and without charge, to the Post Office Department of the despatching country; but newspapers and all other articles of printed matter shall not be returned, but remain at the disposal of the receiving office.

Dead letters.

Letters erroneously transmitted or wrongly addressed, shall be promptly returned to the despatching office without charge.

Letters wrongly addressed, etc.

ARTICLE VII.

To accommodate the Bermuda Government, and at the same time maintain the condition that postage accounts shall not be kept between the two countries, the Post Office Department of the United States will forward, without charge, to the Canada frontier and *vice-versa*, such correspondence, in sealed bags of small weight and bulk, as the Bermuda Post Office may exchange directly with the Dominion of Canada, through the United States; but should the weight and bulk of such mails at any time be deemed too great to justify this concession, the Post Office Department of the United States reserves the right to withdraw it, upon giving notice to that effect.

Closed mail for Canada.

ARTICLE VIII.

Letters originating in foreign countries and addressed to the United States or to Bermuda respectively, on which the foreign and international postage charges are fully prepaid, shall, when forwarded in the mails of either country to the other, be delivered in the country of destination free of charge.

Letters originating in foreign countries.

Official correspondence between the two Post Departments relating exclusively to the postal service, shall be exempt from postage charges.

Official correspondence.

ARTICLE IX.

Neither Post Department shall be required to deliver any article received in the mails, the circulation of which shall be prohibited by the laws in force in the country of destination. And any article subject, by the laws of either country, to customs duty or to confiscation, shall, when received in the mails from the other, be treated in accordance with the laws of the receiving country.

Non-mailable matter.

ARTICLE X.

The two Post Departments may provide for the transmission of registered articles in the mails exchanged between the two countries.

Registered article.

The registration fee for each article shall be ten cents in the United States and six pence in Bermuda.

Registration fee.

ARTICLE XI.

The two Post Departments shall settle, by agreement between them, all measures of detail and arrangement required to carry this Convention into execution, and may modify the same, in like manner, from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require.

Details to be settled by agreement.

ARTICLE XII.

This Convention shall come into operation on the first day of October,

Commencement and duration.

POSTAL CONVENTION—BERMUDA. Aug. 9 and 29, 1876.

and shall be terminable at any time on a notice, by either office, of six months.

Signatures.

Done in duplicate and signed in Washington on the twenty-ninth day of August, 1876, and in Hamilton on the ninth day of August, 1876.

[SEAL.]

JAS. N. TYNER,

Postmaster-General of the United States.

J. H. LEFROY,

Major-General,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bermudas.

Approval.

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

[SEAL.]

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:

W. HUNTER,

Acting Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, *Sept. 4th*, 1876.