

TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS.

Postal convention between the Empire of Japan and the United States of America.

Aug. 6, 1873.

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 Empire of Japan and the United States of America:

Contracting parties.

ARTICLE I.

There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the Empire of Japan, by means of the direct line of United States mail-packets plying between San Francisco and Japan, as well as by such other means of direct mail steamship transportation between the United States and Japan, as shall hereafter be established, with the approval of the respective Post Departments of the two countries, comprising letters, newspapers, printed matter of every kind, and patterns and samples of merchandise, originating in either country, and addressed to and deliverable in the other country, as well as of correspondence of the same nature originating in or destined for foreign countries to which the United States and Japan may respectively serve as intermediaries.

Correspondence to be exchanged.

ARTICLE II.

The post-office of San Francisco shall be the United States office of exchange, and Yokohama the office of exchange of the Empire of Japan, for all mails exchanged between the United States and Japan.

Offices of exchange.

The two Post Departments, by agreement, may establish additional offices of exchange whenever it shall be found necessary.

ARTICLE III.

No accounts shall be kept between the Post Departments of the two countries upon the international correspondence, written or printed, exchanged between them, but each country shall retain to its own use the postages which it collects at the rates fixed by this convention.

No accounts.

The single rate of international letter-postage shall be fifteen cents in the United States and fifteen sen in Japan on each letter weighing fifteen grammes ($\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) or less, and an additional rate of fifteen cents or fifteen sen for each additional weight of fifteen grammes ($\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) or fraction thereof, which shall, in all cases, be prepaid one single rate by means of postage-stamps of the country of origin at the office of mailing in either country. Letters unpaid, or prepaid less than one full rate of postage shall not be forwarded, but insufficiently-paid letters, on which a single rate or more has been prepaid, shall be forwarded, charged with the deficient postage, to be collected and retained by the Post Department of the country of destination. Letters fully prepaid, received in either country from the other, shall be delivered free of all charge whatsoever.

Rates of letter-postage.

Unpaid and short-paid letters.

Postage to be reduced.

It is, however, formally agreed that the single rate of international letter-postage shall be reduced to twelve cents in the United States and to twelve sen in Japan, at the expiration of twelve months from the date of carrying this convention into effect.

Rates of newspaper postage.

The United States post-office shall levy and collect to its own use, on newspapers addressed to or received from Japan, a postage-charge of two cents, and on all other articles of printed matter, patterns and samples of merchandize addressed to or received from Japan, a postage-charge of two cents for each weight of two ounces or fraction of two ounces.

The post-office of Japan shall levy and collect to its own use on newspapers and other articles of printed matter, patterns and samples of merchandize addressed to or received from the United States, the regular rates of Japanese domestic postage chargeable thereon by the laws and regulations of the Empire of Japan.

Printed matter, etc., to be subject to laws, etc., of country.

Newspapers and all other kinds of printed matter, patterns and samples of merchandise, shall be subject to the laws and regulations of each country respectively, prescribing the conditions of their publication and circulation, and also with 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, as well as in regard to their liability to customs duty under the revenue laws of either country.

ARTICLE IV.

Fines on insufficiently-paid letters.

Every international letter insufficiently paid, received in the United States from Japan shall, in addition to the deficient postage, be subject to a fine of six cents, to be retained by the United States post-office; and every international letter insufficiently paid, received in Japan from the United States, shall, in addition to the deficient postage, be subject to a fine of six sen, such fine to be retained by the Japanese post-office.

ARTICLE V.

Exchanges with United States postal agency at Shanghai.

There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the Japanese post-offices of Yokohama, Hiogo and Nagasaki, and the United States postal agency at Shanghai, China, by means of United States or Japanese mail-packets plying regularly on the route between the ports of Japan and Shanghai, comprising letters, newspapers, printed matter of every kind, patterns and samples of merchandise, originating in Japan and addressed to Shanghai, or originating in Shanghai and addressed to Japan. The correspondence so forwarded in either direction between Japan and Shanghai shall give rise to no accounts between the two Post Departments, but each shall levy, collect, and retain to its own use the following postage-rates on the correspondence which it forwards to the other, the same to be in full of all charges to destination.

Rates on exchanges at Shanghai.

On correspondence from Shanghai for Japan, there shall be levied and collected at the United States Postal Agency at Shanghai, a postage of six cents per each single rate of half an ounce or under on letters, two cents each on newspapers and prices-current, and two cents per each weight of two ounces or fraction of two ounces on other articles of printed matter, patterns or samples of merchandise.

Rates on exchanges in Japan.

On correspondence from Japan for Shanghai, there shall be levied and collected at the office of mailing in Japan, a postage of six sen per each single rate of fifteen grammes or under on letters, and the established rates of Japanese domestic postage on other articles of printed matter, patterns or samples of merchandise.

Short-paid or unpaid exchanges.

Correspondence not fully prepaid to destination at the rates fixed by this article will not be forwarded.

ARTICLE VI.

Each country grants to the other the privilege of transit of closed mails exchanged in either direction between the latter and any country to which the other may serve as an intermediary, by its usual means of mail transportation, whether on sea or land.

The rates of postage to be paid by the Japanese Post Department to the United States Post Department for the territorial, or territorial and sea transit, of all correspondence in closed mails, sent or received through the United States for or from countries or places beyond, shall be as follows:

(1.) On closed mails, either for or from Mexico, British Columbia, Canada, and other British North American Provinces, when transmitted entirely by land-routes, six cents per thirty grammes for letter-mails, and thirty-two cents per kilogramme for all kinds of printed matter, patterns and samples of merchandise.

(2.) On closed mails either for or from British Columbia, or other British North American Provinces, Mexico, Central and South America, or the West India Islands, when transported to or from the United States by sea, twenty-five cents per thirty grammes for letter-mails, and forty cents per kilogramme for printed matter of all kinds, patterns and samples.

(3.) On closed mails either for or from Great Britain, Germany, and other countries of Europe, the same rates of territorial and sea postage as those established by the postal conventions between the United States and each of those countries respectively.

The rates of postage to be paid by the United States Post-Office to the Japanese Post-Office for the territorial, or territorial and sea transit of correspondence in closed mails sent through Japan for transmission to or from countries and places beyond, shall be agreed upon between the two Post Departments when the exercise of the privilege is required.

The country which sends or receives closed mails through the other shall render an account of the letters, newspapers, book-packets, and patterns contained in such closed mails.

ARTICLE VII.

The two Post Departments of the United States and Japan shall establish, by agreement, and in conformity with the arrangements in force at the time, the conditions upon which the two offices may reciprocally exchange, in open mails, the correspondence originating in or destined for foreign countries to which they may respectively serve as intermediaries.

It is always understood, however, that such correspondence shall only be charged with the rates applicable to direct international correspondence, augmented by the postage due to foreign countries, or by any other tax for exterior service.

ARTICLE VIII.

The United States Post-Office shall account to the Japanese Post-Office for the sum of two cents upon every single paid letter from foreign countries sent through the United States in ordinary mails and prepaid to destination in Japan.

ARTICLE IX.

All passengers' letters sent back to the United States by passing mail steamers on the high seas, shall be paid in full, at ten cents per single rate, with United States postage-stamps; and all passengers' letters sent

Transit in closed mails.

Rates for transit through United States.

Rates for transit through Japan.

Accounts.

Open-mail exchanges of foreign mails.

Account on open foreign mails by United States.

Letters mailed at sea.

back to Japan by passing mail-steamers on the high seas, shall be paid in full at ten sen per single rate, with Japanese postage-stamps.

ARTICLE X.

Sea-postage on
Pacific Ocean.

The sea-postage for the conveyance across the Pacific Ocean of correspondence in open or closed mails, exchanged under the provisions of this convention, shall be computed at six cents per ounce or six sen per thirty grammes (net weight) on letter-mails, and six cents per pound or six sen per four hundred and eighty grammes (net weight) on other correspondence.

ARTICLE XI.

Letter-bills.

Accounts.

Letter-bills shall accompany each mail from one country to the other, containing an account of the weight of each class of correspondence, both international and transit; and the accounts arising between the two offices on the different classes of transit correspondence shall be stated, adjusted, and settled quarterly, and the balance found due on such correspondence shall be promptly paid over by the debtor office to the creditor office in such manner as the creditor office may desire.

ARTICLE XII.

Expenses of ad-
ditional sea-service
between United
States and Japan.

So long as the Government of the United States shall maintain, at its own expense, the existing line of semi-monthly mail-steamers between San Francisco and Yokohama, it is mutually agreed that the Government of Japan shall defray the entire expenses of the sea transportation of all correspondence which shall be transmitted in either direction by any other line of mail-steamers plying between the sea-ports of the two countries.

ARTICLE XIII.

Closed-mail
transfers without
charge.

When in any port of either country a closed mail is transferred from one vessel to another, without any expense to the office of the country where the transfer is made, such transfer shall not be subject to any postal charge by one office against the other.

ARTICLE XIV.

Official postal
correspondence.

Official communications, addressed by the United States Post-Office to the Japanese Post-Office, or by the Japanese Post-Office to the United States Post-Office, shall not give rise to any account between the two offices.

ARTICLE XV.

Official diplo-
matic correspond-
ence.

The official correspondence between each government and its legation near the other shall be conveyed to its destination free of postage, and with all the precaution which the two Governments may find necessary for its inviolability and security.

ARTICLE XVI.

Registered arti-
cles.

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

The register-fee on each registered article shall be ten cents in the United States and fifteen sen in Japan, and the ordinary postage thereon, as well as the register-fee, must always be fully prepaid.

Register-fee.

Each office is at liberty to regulate this fee for the registered articles it despatches.

ARTICLE XVII.

The two Post Departments shall settle by agreement between them all matters 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.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Every fully prepaid letter despatched from one country to the other shall be plainly stamped with the words "*paid all*" in red ink, on the upper right-hand corner of the address, in addition to the date-stamp of the office at which it was posted; and on insufficiently paid letters the amount of the deficient postage shall be inscribed in *black ink*.

Marking-stamps.

ARTICLE XIX.

Dead letters which cannot be delivered, from whatever cause, shall be mutually returned without charge, monthly, or as frequently as the regulations of the respective offices will permit.

Dead letters.

ARTICLE XX.

In converting Japanese currency into United States currency, or United States currency into Japanese currency, the United States dollar shall be considered the equivalent of the Japanese yen, and the United States cent as the equivalent of the Japanese sen.

Conversion of
of United States
currency.

ARTICLE XXI.

The United States post-office agrees that, upon a notice of six months being given by the Japanese post-office, at any time after the ratification of this Convention, the United States Postal Agency at Yokohama, and all other United States Postal Agencies that are now, or that may hereafter be established within the limits of Japan, shall be discontinued.

Discontinuance
of United States
postal agencies in
Japan.

ARTICLE XXII.

This Convention shall go into effect upon the day on which the Postal Agencies of the United States in Japan shall be discontinued.

Commencement.

ARTICLE XXIII.

This Convention shall be terminable at any time, on a notice by either office of one year. It is to be ratified and the ratifications are to be exchanged as soon as possible.

Termination.

Done in duplicate original at the city of Washington, this 6th day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, or the sixth day of the eighth month of the sixth year of Meiji.

Signatures.

[SEAL.]

SAMRO TAKAKI,
His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim,
to the United States of America.

[SEAL.]

JOHN A. J. CRESWELL,
Postmaster-General of the United States.

Approval of the
President.

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:

HAMILTON FISH,

Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, August 6th, 1873.

[Translation.]

Approval of
Japan.

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

[IMPERIAL SEAL.]

MUTSU HITO.

By order of His Majesty:

TERASHIMA MUNENORI,

His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The 7th of 2d month, 7th year Meiji.

Ratifications ex-
changed.

We, John A. J. Creswell, Postmaster-General of the United States, and Mr. Giro Yano, chargé d'affaires, *ad interim*, of Japan to the United States, certify that on this date we have proceeded to perform the exchange of ratifications of the Postal Convention which was concluded between the United States of America and the Empire of Japan, at Washington, on the 6th day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, or the 6th day of the eighth month of the sixth year of Meiji.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington this 18th day of April, A. D. 1874, or the 18th day of the fourth month of the seventh year of Meiji.

[SEAL.]

JNO. A. J. CRESWELL,

Postmaster-General of the United States.

[SEAL.]

GIRO YANO,

Chargé d'affaires, ad interim, of Japan.

Detailed regula-
tions.

Detailed regulations for the Execution of the Postal Convention between the United States and the Empire of Japan, concluded on the 6th of August, 1873.

Preliminary.

For the purpose of carrying into operation the Postal Convention concluded on the 6th of August, 1873, between the United States of America and the Empire of Japan, and in pursuance of Article XVII of said convention, the following detailed regulations have been agreed upon between the two Post-Office Departments:

ARTICLE I.

Letter-bills be-
tween exchange
offices.

Each mail exchanged between the respective exchange offices shall be accompanied by a letter-bill following the Form A hereto annexed, and the receipt of each mail shall be acknowledged by the receiving office by the next dispatch, in accordance with the form of Acknowledgments of receipt hereto annexed, marked B.