

Oct. 5, Dec. 9, 1881. *Convention between the Post Office Department of the United States of America and the General Post Office of the Colony of Victoria, Australia, concerning the exchange of money-orders. Done in duplicate and signed in Washington December 9, 1881; and in Melbourne October 5, 1881.*

**Contracting parties.** The Post Office Department of the United States of America and the General Post Office of the Colony of Victoria, Australia, being desirous of establishing a system of exchange of money-orders between the two countries, the undersigned, duly authorized for that purpose, have agreed upon the following Articles:

#### ARTICLE 1.

**Exchange of postal money orders.** There shall be a regular exchange of money-orders between the two countries.

**Maximum of orders.** The maximum of each order is fixed at £10 sterling, when issued in Victoria, and, when issued in the United States, at the equivalent, in sterling money, of \$50 in the money of the latter country, converted at the rate fixed by Article 13 of the present Convention.

**Fractions excluded.** No money-order shall include a fractional part of a penny, or, of a cent.

The amount of each order, whether issued in the United States or in Victoria, must be expressed in letters in British money, and the equivalent in the money of the United States must also be shown in figures.

#### ARTICLE 2.

**Commissions.** The Victoria Post Office shall have power to fix the rates of commission on all money-orders issued in Victoria, and the Post Office Department of the United States shall have the same power in regard to all money-orders issued in the United States.

**Rate of charges.** Each Office shall communicate to the other its tariff of charges, or rates of commission, which shall be established under this Convention, and these rates shall, in all cases, be payable in advance by the remitters, and shall not be repayable.

**Exchange, suspension of.** It is understood, moreover, that each Office is authorized to suspend, temporarily, the exchange of money-orders in case the course of exchange, or any other circumstance should give rise to abuses, or, cause detriment to the postal revenue.

#### ARTICLE 3.

**Commissions, disposition and payment of.** Each country shall keep the commission charged on all money-orders within its jurisdiction, but shall pay to the other country three-fourths of one per cent. on the amount of such orders.

#### ARTICLE 4.

**Designation of offices of exchange.** The service of the Postal money-order system between the two countries, shall be performed exclusively by the agency of Offices of Exchange. On the part of the United States the Office of Exchange shall be San Francisco California, and on the part of Victoria, Melbourne.

**Orders drawn on offices of exchange only.** Orders shall be drawn only on the authorized money-order offices of the respective countries; and each Postal Administration shall furnish to the other a List of such offices, and shall, from time to time, notify any addition to, or change in such list. Every order and advice must contain the name of the office and of the country of destination, and if

relating to an order payable in the United States, the name of the State in which such office is situated.

#### ARTICLE 5.

No money-order shall be issued unless the applicant furnish the name and address of the person to whom the amount is to be paid, and his own name and address; or, the name of the firm, or company who are the remitters or payees, together with the addresses of each.

Issue of money order, conditions for the.

The money-orders, issued in either country, shall be forwarded by the remitters to the payees, at their own expense.

#### ARTICLE 6.

The advices of all money-orders issued upon Victoria by the post offices in the United States shall be sent to the Office of Exchange at San Francisco, where they shall be impressed with a dated stamp (Form "A") showing the amount to be paid in Sterling money, and transmitted, by the next direct mail, to the Exchange Office at Melbourne, accompanied by a List, in duplicate, drawn upon the model of Form "B."

Advices, (Form "A.")

List in duplicate, Form "B."

The advices, on their arrival in Melbourne, shall be compared with the entries in the List, and, afterwards dispatched to the paying offices.

In like manner the advices of money-orders, drawn on the United States by postmasters in Victoria, shall be sent to the Exchange Office at Melbourne, shall there be impressed with a dated stamp (Form "A") showing the amount to be paid in United States money, and be dispatched accompanied by a List, in duplicate (Form "C") to the Office of Exchange at San Francisco by the next direct mail.

Advices.

Form "A."

Form "C."

The advices, on their receipt at San Francisco, shall be compared with the entries in the List, and afterwards dispatched to the paying offices.

The advices of orders issued in the United States in the month of June, which may arrive at the Office of Exchange at San Francisco in the earlier days of the following month, shall be entered on Lists supplementary to that of the last day of the month of June, and in like manner, the advices of orders issued in Victoria in the month of June, which may arrive at the Exchange Office at Melbourne in the earlier days of the following month, shall be entered on Lists supplementary to that of the last day of the month of June.

Each Exchange Office shall certify its orders to the other in amounts designated in the denominations of the money both of the dispatching and receiving country, at the rate of conversion established by Article 13 of this Convention. The amounts, so converted, shall be checked at the receiving Office of Exchange.

Certification of orders.

Each Administration hereby undertakes and agrees to suspend the issue of money-orders a sufficient length of time before the sailing of each steamer which carries the Exchange Lists and advices, at those post offices in its own territory where such suspension may be necessary, in order to prevent the issue of orders which could be dispatched by the outgoing mail while the corresponding advices could not be certified by the Exchange Office in time to be conveyed by that mail.

Suspension of issue, closing mails.

The Exchange Lists and the accompanying advices shall invariably be sent by such steamers as carry the mails directly from San Francisco to Sydney, or from Sydney to San Francisco, as the case may be, and not via London in any event.

Lists and advices to be sent by direct route.

#### ARTICLE 7.

The Lists, dispatched from each Office of Exchange, shall be numbered consecutively, commencing with No. 1 at the beginning of the month of July in each year; and the entries in these Lists shall also have consecutive numbers.

Lists to be numbered consecutively, etc.

- Duplicates of lists to be kept.** Of each List dispatched a duplicate shall be sent, which duplicate, after being verified by the receiving Office of Exchange, shall be returned to the dispatching Office of Exchange.
- Corrections and errors.** Each Office of Exchange shall promptly communicate to the other the correction of any simple error, which it may discover in the verification of the Lists.
- Irregularities.** When the Lists shall show irregularities, which the receiving Exchange Office shall not be able to rectify, that Office shall apply for an explanation to the dispatching Exchange Office, and such explanation shall be afforded without delay.
- Duplicate lists to be furnished, when.** Should any List fail to be received in due course, the dispatching Exchange Office, on receiving information to that effect, shall transmit, without delay, a duplicate of the List, duly certified as such.

## ARTICLE 8.

- Duplicate orders, issue of.** Duplicate orders shall only be issued by the Postal Administration of the country, on which the original orders were drawn, and in conformity with the regulations established, or, to be established in that country.

## ARTICLE 9.

- Regulations governing payment.** The orders, issued by each country on the other, shall be subject, as regards payment, to the regulations which govern the payment of inland orders of the country, on which they were drawn.
- Possession of paid orders.** The paid orders shall remain in the possession of the country of payment.

## ARTICLE 10.

- Repayment to remitters, how made.** Repayment of orders to remitters shall not be made until an authorization for such repayment shall first have been obtained by the country of issue from the country where such orders are payable, and the amounts of the repaid orders shall be duly credited to the former country in the quarterly account. (Article 12.)

It is the province of each Postal Administration to determine the manner in which repayment to the remitters is to be made.

## ARTICLE 11.

- Unpaid orders for twelve months' void.** Orders which shall not have been paid within twelve calendar months from the month of issue, shall become void, and the sums received shall accrue to, and be at the disposal of the country of origin.

**Accounts.** The Victoria Office shall, therefore, enter to the credit of the United States, in the quarterly account, all money-orders entered in the Lists received from the United States, which remain unpaid at the end of the period specified. (Article 12.)

On the other hand the Post Office Department of the United States shall, at the close of each month, transmit to the Victoria Office, for entry in the quarterly account, a detailed statement of all orders, included in the Lists dispatched from the latter Office, which under this Article become void.

## ARTICLE 12.

- Quarterly accounts to be rendered.** At the close of each quarter an account shall be prepared at the General Post Office of Victoria, showing in detail the totals of the Lists, containing the particulars of orders issued in either country during the quarter, and the balance resulting from such transactions.

**Balances, payment of.** Three copies of this account shall be transmitted to the Post Office Department of the United States, at Washington, and the balance, after proper verification, shall, if due by the General Post Office of Victoria, be paid to the General Post Office at London, to the credit of the Post

Office Department of the United States on account of the exchange of money-orders between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; if due by the Post Office Department of the United States the balance shall likewise be paid to the General Post Office at London, to the credit of the General Post Office of Victoria.

If pending the settlement of an account, one of the two Postal Administrations shall ascertain that it owes the other a balance exceeding five hundred pounds (£500) sterling, the indebted Administrations shall promptly remit the approximate amount of such balance to the credit of the other.

Settlement.

This account shall be in accordance with the forms "D," "E," "F," and "G," annexed to this Convention. Forms "D," "E," "F," and "G."

## ARTICLE 13.

Until the two Postal Administrations shall consent to an alteration, it is agreed that in all matters of account, relative to money-orders, which shall result from the execution of the present Convention, the pound sterling of Great Britain shall be considered as equivalent to four dollars eighty-seven cents of the money of the United States.

The pound sterling, equivalent value of.

## ARTICLE 14.

The Postal Administration in each country shall be authorized to adopt any additional rules, (if not repugnant to the foregoing,) for the greater security against fraud, or, for the better working of the system generally.

Additional rules.

All such additional rules, however, must be promptly communicated to the Post Office of the other country.

## ARTICLE 15.

This present Convention shall take effect on the first day of January, 1882, and shall continue in force until twelve months after either of the contracting parties shall have notified to the other its intention to terminate it.

Commencement.

Termination.

Done in duplicate and signed in Washington on the ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord 1881, and in Melbourne on the fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord 1881.

THOMAS L. JAMES,

Signatures.

*Postmaster General of the United States.*

{ SEAL OF THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT }  
OF THE UNITED STATES.

HENRY BOLTON,

*Postmaster General of Victoria.*

[SEAL OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE OF VICTORIA.]

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

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

[SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES.]

By the President:

JAMES G. BLAINE

*Secretary of State.*

WASHINGTON, December 9th, 1881.

**A.****Value of United States Order in English money.**

<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
5	3	2

**San Francisco, January 1, 1882.****Value of Victoria Order in United States money.**

\$14	c. 25
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**Melbourne, January 1, 1882.**

B.

List No.....

Stamp of  
San Francisco  
Office.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you herewith, in duplicate, a List containing a detailed statement of the sums received in the United States since my last dispatch (List No.....), for orders payable in Victoria, amounting in the aggregate to \$.....

Be pleased to examine, complete, and return to me the original copy of this List, with your acknowledgment of its receipt indorsed thereon.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

.....  
*Postmaster, San Francisco.*

To the POSTMASTER,  
MONEY-ORDER EXCHANGE OFFICE,  
Melbourne.

[illegible]

**B.**

**MONEY-ORDER OFFICE,**

*Melbourne, ..... 1881.*

SIR: I have examined this List of Money-Orders from No. .... to No. ...., inclusive, for sum received in the United States for payment in Victoria, amounting in the aggregate to \$....., and which is to be paid to the net amount of £.....  
s..... d.....

The said List was found to be correct, with the following exceptions:

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I am, sir, your obedient servant,

To the POSTMASTER,

MONEY-ORDER EXCHANGE OFFICE,

*San Francisco, Cal.*







Table showing the particulars of such orders as have been repaid to the remitters in the country of issue.

[illegible]



## G.

## BALANCE.

To credit of Victoria Office.				To credit of United States Office.			