

Postal convention between the United States of America and the Bahamas. December 20, 1887.
January 9, 1880.

For the purpose of making better postal arrangements between the United States of America and the Bahamas, the undersigned, William F. Vilas, Postmaster-General of the United States of America, and Sir Ambrose Shea, K. C. M. G., Governor of the Bahamas, by virtue of authority vested in them by law, have agreed upon the following articles for the establishment of a parcels post system of exchanges between the two countries.

Preamble.

ARTICLE I.

The provisions of this Convention relate only to parcels of mail matter to be exchanged by the system herein provided for, and do not affect the arrangements now existing under the Universal Postal Union Convention, which will continue as heretofore; and all the agreements hereinafter contained apply exclusively to mails exchanged under these articles, *directly* between the office of New York, in the State of New York, and such other offices within the United States as may be hereafter designated by the Postmaster-General of the United States, and the office of Nassau, N. P., Bahamas, and such other offices within the Bahamas as may be hereafter designated by the Postmaster of the Bahamas; such matter to be admitted to the mails under these articles as shall be sent through such exchange offices from any place in either country to any place in the other.

Extent of Convention.

ARTICLE II.

There shall be admitted to the mails exchanged under this Convention, articles of merchandise and mail matter except letters, post cards, and written matter, of all kinds that are admitted under any conditions to the domestic mails of the country of origin, except that no packet must exceed 11 pounds (or 5 kilograms) in weight, nor the following dimensions: Greatest length in any direction three feet six inches; greatest length and girth combined, six feet; and must be so wrapped or inclosed as to permit their contents to be easily examined by postmasters and customs officers; and except that the following articles are prohibited:

Articles admitted to the mails.

Publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination; poisons, and explosive or inflammable substances; fatty substances, liquids, and those which easily liquefy, confections and pastes; live or dead animals, except dead insects and reptiles when thoroughly dried; fruits and vegetables, and substances which exhale a bad odor; lottery tickets, lottery advertisements, or lottery circulars; all obscene or immoral articles; articles which may in any way damage or destroy the mails, or injure the persons handling them.

Articles prohibited.

ARTICLE III.

A letter or communication of the nature of personal correspondence must not accompany, be written on, or inclosed with any parcel.

Letters accompanying parcels.

If such be found, the letter will be placed in the mails if separable, and if the communication be inseparably attached, the whole package will be rejected. If, however, any such should inadvertently

be forwarded, the country of destination will collect double rates of postage according to the Universal Postal Union Convention.

Address.

No parcel may contain parcels intended for delivery at an address other than that borne by the parcel itself. If such inclosed parcels be detected, they must be sent forward singly, charged with new and distinct parcel-post rates.

ARTICLE IV.

Duties.

The packages in question shall be subject in the country of destination to all customs duties and all customs regulations in force in that country for the protection of its customs revenues, and to the following rates of postage, which shall in all cases be required to be **FULLY PREPAID** with postage stamps of the country of origin, viz :

Rate of postage.

In the United States, for a parcel not exceeding one pound in weight, 12 cents; and for each additional pound, or fraction of a pound, 12 cents.

In the Bahamas, for a parcel not exceeding one pound in weight, six pence; and for each additional pound, or fraction of a pound, six pence.

ARTICLE V.

Customs declaration.

The sender of each package must make a *Customs Declaration*, pasted upon or attached to the package, upon a special form provided for the purpose (see Model 1, "A," annexed hereto), giving a general description of the parcel, an accurate statement of the contents and value, date of mailing, and the sender's signature and place of residence, and place of address.

The sender will, at the time of mailing the package, receive a certificate of mailing from the post-office where the package is mailed, on a form like Model 2, annexed hereto.

Return receipt.

The sender of a package may obtain a return receipt for the same by paying in the United States a fee of 5 cents, and in the Bahamas two pence, in addition to the postage on each packet, to be affixed to the packet in stamps of the country of origin.

Registry.

The sender of a package may have the same registered by paying the registration fee required for registered articles in the country of origin, and will receive the return receipt without special charge therefor.

ARTICLE VI.

Delivery.

The addressees of registered articles shall be advised of the arrival of a package addressed to them, by a notice from the post-office of destination.

The packages shall be delivered to addressees in the country of destination free of charge *for postage*; but the customs duties properly chargeable thereon shall be collected on delivery in accordance with the customs regulations of the country of destination; and the country of destination may, at its option, levy and collect from the addressee for interior service and delivery a charge not exceeding five cents in the United States and two and a half pence in the Bahamas on each single parcel of whatever weight; and if the weight exceeds one pound, a charge equal to one cent or one-half penny for each four ounces of weight or fraction thereof.

ARTICLE VII.

Transportation.

The packages shall be considered as a component part of the mails exchanged direct between the United States and the Bahamas, to be dispatched by the country of origin to the other at its cost and by such means as it provides, but must be forwarded, at the option of

the dispatching office, either in boxes prepared expressly for the purpose or in ordinary mail sacks, to be marked "Parcel post," and not to contain any other articles of mail matter, and to be securely sealed with wax, or otherwise, as may be mutually provided by regulations hereunder.

Each country shall promptly return *empty* to the dispatching office by next mail, all such bags and boxes, but subject to other regulations between the two administrations.

Although articles admitted under this Convention will be transmitted as aforesaid between the exchange offices, they should be so carefully packed as to be safely transmitted in the open mails of either country, both in going to the exchange office in the country of origin and to the office of address in the country of destination.

Each dispatch of a parcel post mail must be accompanied by a descriptive list, in duplicate, of all the packages sent, showing distinctly the list number of each parcel, the name of the sender, the name of the addressee with address of destination, and the declared contents and value; and must be inclosed in one of the boxes or sacks of such dispatch. (See Model 3 annexed hereto.)

Way bill.

ARTICLE VIII.

As soon as the mail shall have reached the office of destination, that office shall check the contents of the mail.

Receipt of mail.

In the event of the parcel bill not having been received a substitute should be at once prepared.

Any errors in the entries on the parcel bill which may be discovered, should, after verification by a second officer, be corrected and noted for report to the dispatching office on a form, "Verification certificate," which should be sent in a special envelope.

If a parcel advised on the bill be not received, after the non-receipt has been verified by a second officer, the entry on the bill should be canceled and the fact reported at once.

If a parcel be observed to be insufficiently prepaid, it must not be taxed with deficient postage, but the circumstance must be reported on the verification certificate form.

Should a parcel be received in a damaged or imperfect condition, full particulars should be reported on the same form.

If no verification certificate or note of error be received, a parcel mail shall be considered as duly delivered, having been found on examination correct in all respects.

ARTICLE IX.

If a package can not be delivered as addressed, or is refused, the sender will be communicated with through the central administration of the office of destination, as to the manner in which he desires the package to be disposed of, and if no reply is received from him within a period of three months from the date of the notice, the package may be sold for the benefit of whom it may concern.

Failure of delivery.

An order for redirection or reforwarding must be accompanied by the amount due for postage necessary for the return of the article to the office of origin, at the ordinary parcel rates.

Rerforwarding.

When the contents of a parcel which cannot be delivered are liable to deterioration or corruption, they may be destroyed at once, if necessary, or if expedient, sold, without previous notice or judicial formality, for the benefit of the right person, the particulars of each sale being noticed by one post-office to the other.

Disposal of perishable articles.

ARTICLE X.

No responsibility for
loss or damage.

The Post-Office Department of either of the contracting countries will not be responsible for the loss or damage of any package, and no indemnity can consequently be claimed by the sender or addressee in either country.

ARTICLE XI.

Fees to be retained.

Each country shall retain to its own use the whole of the postages, registration and delivery fees, it collects on said packages; consequently, this Convention will give rise to no separate accounts between the two countries.

ARTICLE XII.

Further regulations.

The Postmaster-General of the United States of America, and the Postmaster of the Bahamas, shall have authority to jointly make such further regulations of order and detail as may be found necessary to carry out the present Convention from time to time; and may, by agreement, prescribe conditions for the admission in packages exchanged under this Convention of any of the articles prohibited by Article II.

ARTICLE XIII.

Commencement and
duration.

This Convention shall take effect and operations thereunder shall begin on the first day of February, 1888, and shall continue in force until terminated by mutual agreement, but may be annulled at the desire of either Department, upon six months' previous notice given to the other.

Done in duplicate, and signed at Washington the twentieth day of December, 1887, and at Nassau, N. P., the ninth day of January 1888
[SEAL.]

WM. F. VILAS,

Postmaster-General of the United States.

A. SHEA

Governor of the Bahamas.

Approval.

The foregoing Parcel Post Convention between the United States of America and the Bahamas has been negotiated and concluded with my advice and consent, and is hereby approved and ratified.

In testimony whereof I have caused the Great Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

[SEAL.]

GROVER CLEVELAND.

By the President :

T. F. BAYARD,

Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, *January 16th*, 1888

A.

FORM 1.

Parcel Post between the United States and the Bahamas.

Date. Stamp.	FORM OF CUSTOMS DECLARATION.	Place to which the parcel is addressed.
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Description of parcel: [State whether box, basket, bag, &c.]	Contents.	Value.	Per cent.	Total customs charges.
		\$		\$
	Total.	\$		\$

Date of posting:, 18..; signature and address of sender }

☒ For use of Post-Office only, and to be filled up at the office of exchange.

Parcel Bill No.; No. of rates prepaid.; Entry No.

B.

Parcel Post from
The import duty assessed by an officer of customs on contents of this parcel amounts
to \$, which must be paid before the parcel is delivered.

Date
Stamp.

.....
Postmaster-General.

C.

Parcel Post from
This parcel has been passed by an officer of customs and must be delivered
FREE OF CHARGE.

Date
Stamp.

.....
Postmaster-General.

Parcel Post.

Office stamp.

FORM 3.

Parcel Bill No., dated 18.; per S. S. "....."

*Sheet No.

Entry No.	Origin of parcel.	Name of addressee.	'Address of parcel.	Declared contents.	Declared value.	Number of rates prepaid to the Bahamas.	Remarks.
					\$		
				Total...	\$		

Ibs.

Signature of dispatching officer at New York *Net weight of parcels.....
Post-Office.....

Signature of receiving officer, Post-Office, Bahamas.