

Convention between the United States of America and Russia, including Finland, for the Exchange of Postal Money Orders.

The undersigned, CHARLES EMORY SMITH, Postmaster General of the United States, acting by virtue of the authority vested in him by law, and the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs of the Russian Empire, under reserve of approval by the competent authorities, have concluded the following convention:

February 1, 1899.

January 11, 1900.
23.

ARTICLE I.—*Exchange.*

1. There is established between the United States and Russia, including Finland, a regular exchange of Postal Money Orders.
2. This exchange is to be effected by the offices to be designated by each of the two contracting administrations.
3. These (*Exchange**) Offices shall notify each other, by means of lists, of the Orders drawn in each country upon the other.

Exchange of Money Orders.

Offices.

Lists.

ARTICLE II.—*Currency.*

The amount of each Money Order shall be expressed by the remitter in the money of his country, and shall be converted by the dispatching (*Exchange*) Office into the money of the country where payment is to be effected, on the basis that 1 rouble is equal to 51.46 cents, and one dollar equal to 1 rouble, 94.33 copecks.

To be expressed in money of country of remitter, etc.

ARTICLE III.—*Maximum amount.*

1. No (*single*) Money Order shall exceed the sum of one hundred dollars, or a corresponding amount in roubles.
2. In issuing Money Orders no account shall be taken of fractions of copecks or of cents.

Maximum amount.

Fractions.

ARTICLE IV.—*Endorsements.*

The administration of each of the contracting countries reserves the right to provide for the transfer by means of endorsement, within its territory, of the ownership of Money Orders originating in the other country.

Endorsements.

ARTICLE V.—*Fees.*

1. Each of the two administrations shall fix the fees to be charged for Money Orders drawn upon the other country.
2. This fee shall, however, not exceed one per centum upon the (*round sums*) amounts constituting the divisions in the scale of fees.
3. The two administrations shall communicate to each other the fees which they shall have established and the changes which they may subsequently make therein.

Fees.

NOTE.—* Italicized words, in parentheses, when inserted, are intended to be explanatory of the text.

No additional tax.

4. The Money Orders, and the receipts given upon such Orders, as well as the receipts to be delivered to the remitters, shall not be subjected, at the expense of the remitters or payees of the amounts, to any charge or tax whatsoever, in addition to the fees to be collected by virtue of paragraphs 1 and 2, above.

ARTICLE VI.—*Commission.*

Commission.

The postal administration by which the Money Orders are issued shall credit the administration of the country of payment with the total amount of the Orders which it has certified to the other, in addition to one-half of one per centum on the difference between the total amount of the Orders certified and the amount of void and repaid Orders.

ARTICLE VII.—*Guarantee.*

Guarantee.

1. The sums converted into Postal Money Orders are guaranteed to the remitters until they shall have been regularly paid to the payees, or to the representatives of the latter, or shall have been refunded to the remitters.

2. The sums received by each administration for Postal Money Orders, the amounts of which shall not have been claimed by the persons entitled to payment before the expiration of the periods fixed by the laws or regulations of the country of destination, become the absolute property of the administration which has issued the Orders, which (*administration*) shall take the necessary measures to provide for repayment of these Orders to the remitters.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Accounts.*

Accounts.

At the end of each quarter the Russian postal administration shall prepare an account of the amounts received by the offices of the two countries and the credits to be given to each administration, as well as a statement of the Orders refunded by each administration.

ARTICLE IX.—*Balances.*

Balances.

1. The postal administration of the United States shall examine this account, correct it, if necessary, and, if the balance is in favor of Russia, shall transmit such balance within one month, at the latest, after the receipt of the account.

2. If the account shows a balance to the credit of the administration of the United States, the postal administration of Russia shall transmit the amount of such balance to the former within one month, at the latest, after the receipt of notice of the acceptance or correction of the account.

—payment of.

3. Payment of balances shall be effected in the following manner:

(a) If the balance is in favor of the postal administration of Russia, the postal administration of the United States shall deposit the amount of the balance with such (*bank or*) banking house at New York as may be designated by the Russian postal administration.

(b) If the balance is in favor of the postal administration of the United States, the postal administration of Russia shall deposit the equivalent of the amount of the balance, converted into pounds sterling, with such (*bank or*) banking house in London as may be designated by the Post Office Department of the United States.

(c) The conversion into pounds sterling of the amount above mentioned shall be effected on the basis that one pound sterling is equal to four dollars and eighty-seven cents (\$4.87).

4. The expenses which may result from the payment of balances shall always be borne by the administration by which the payment is made. Expense of payment of balances.

ARTICLE X.—*Ascertainment of balance.*

1. To ascertain the amount of the balance to be paid, the smaller credit is to be converted into the money of the country which has the larger credit. Ascertainment of balance.

2. This conversion shall be made upon the basis that one rouble is equal to fifty-one and forty-six hundredths cents (51.46) and one dollar is equal to one rouble, ninety-four and thirty-three hundredths copecks (1 R. 94.33 cop).

ARTICLE XI.—*Payments on account.*

Whenever, during the course of a quarter, it is found that the amount of Orders drawn upon either of the two administrations exceeds by five thousand dollars, or ten thousand roubles, the amount of Orders drawn upon the other administration, the latter shall transmit to the former the approximate amount of the ascertained difference, in a round sum, as a payment on account, in the manner in which the payment of balances is to be effected (Art. IX, par. 3). Payments on account.

ARTICLE XII.—*Conditions of issue and payment.*

1. The form, and the conditions of issue of Postal Money Orders in each country are subject to the regulations in force in the country of origin. Conditions of issue and payment.

2. The form, as well as the conditions of payment of Postal Money Orders, including those relating to the suspension of payment, the renewing of Orders, the issue of duplicates, and all other matters concerning payment, are subject to the regulations in force in the country of destination.

ARTICLE XIII.—*Suspension of service.*

1. Each administration is authorized to suspend, temporarily, the exchange of Money Orders, whenever the course of exchange or any other circumstance may give rise to abuses or cause detriment to the revenues. Suspension of service.

2. Notice of such action must be communicated immediately to the other administration, and, if deemed necessary, by means of the telegraph. Notice.

ARTICLE XIV.—*Detailed regulations.*

The postal administrations of the two countries shall have power, by mutual agreement, to arrange detailed regulations for the execution of the present Convention, and to modify them at any time, according to the requirements of the service. Detailed regulations.

ARTICLE XV.—*Date of taking effect.*

The present Convention shall take effect on the nineteenth of March (first of April), one thousand nine hundred. It shall remain in force until the expiration of a period of one year after the date upon which one of the two (*contracting*) administrations shall have notified the other of its intention to terminate it. Effect.

ARTICLE XVI.—*Ministerial declarations.*

Ministerial declarations.

This Convention shall be approved by an exchange of ministerial declarations, which shall take place as soon as practicable.

Signatures.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have affixed thereto their seals.

Executed in duplicate and signed at Washington the first day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and at Saint Petersburg ^{eleventh} ~~twenty-third~~ January, one thousand nine hundred.

[L. s.] (Signed)

CH. EMORY SMITH,
Postmaster General of the United States.

[L. s.] (Signed)

Lieutenant General N. PETROFF,
*Director General of Posts and Telegraphs
of the Russian Empire.*